SUMMER OF SEQUELS AT THEATRES, PG 44

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Blitz buckles down on seatbelt use

CAMPAIGN The latest crackdown on seatbelt use on Ontario roads resulted in more than 7,200 charges laid by Ontario Provincial Police in just 10 days.

That was out of 996,316 vehicles checked during the campaign, which ran from April 14-24.

The bulk of the charges, 5,611, were laid against drivers for not buckling up and another 1,523 passengers were charged for not being strapped in.

A further 132 charges were laid for improperly installed child seats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colourful Caribana

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dancers Danielle Ramjattan, left, and Lysha de Freitas take part in a media conference yesterday that talked about Caribana's impact on the local economy. This year's official Caribana launch will take place July 15. More coverage, page 8.

Release the docs

Speaker's historic ruling goes against Conservatives

Parliament's right to know has trumped the government's right to keep national security secrets in a historic ruling by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Peter Milliken sided yesterday with opposition parties in concluding that MPs have unlimited power to demand the release of all uncensored documents related to the alleged torture of Afghan detainees. He said power is absolute and goes to "the very foundations upon which our parliamentary system is built."

And he said it applies even to sensitive information the government fears could jeopardize national security, the lives of Canadian troops in Afghanistan and Canada's international relations.

"No exceptions are made for any category of government documents, even those related to national security," Milliken said in his eagerly anticipated ruling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let's make a deal

- Speaker Peter Milliken gave the government two weeks to work out a deal with the opposition parties, in which MPs would get access to the documents they've been demanding for five months while protecting the confidentiality of the most sensitive information.

Rocket's launch delayed

TRANSIT Toronto's new Rocket subway cars are stuck on the launch pad months after they were expected to arrive in Toronto.

The delay, blamed on the bankruptcy of the New York-based door manufacturer, means Yonge-University riders will wait at least six extra months for some relief from overcrowding on the system's busiest line.

The new TR cars were supposed to begin testing in the TTC tunnels early this year. But officials say it will be at least late August before the first Rockets arrive and the end of the year before they're pressed into service.

Bombardier has done everything it can to minimize the impact of the delay on the TTC and is now doing some of the door work in-house at the company's Thunder Bay plant, said spokesman Marc-André Lefebvre.

The delay won't affect TTC operations.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

66

Like the T1 cars running now on the Yonge line, the Toronto Rockets contain 66 seats. But open gangways allow riders to move up and down the six-car trains, and a new seating configuration means they can carry about 10 per cent more standing riders than the 1,000 that pack onto the existing trains.

Metro Drive pg 37

Rollin' down the highway

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SCANLIFE

Local

Boy shoots boy in face, gets warning

A Pickering boy has been given a stern warning after shooting an 11-year-old twice in the face with a pellet gun. The victim was hit below his left ear and eye in yesterday's incident. Police say the victim's dirt bike was allegedly stolen by the shooter, who rode away before authorities arrived on the scene. The suspect, who is also 11, is too young to be charged under the Criminal Code. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
Steve Collins writes about the modern Canadian relationship in Relating.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs SpinDoctor notices something strange about Ottawa's handling of the Guergis affair and Sexcetera wonders if pay dating sites are truly better than free ones

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Subway mugging ignored

Commuter, 79, says he will never ride alone again

Police are asking bystanders to come forward after a subway car full of passengers ignored the cries of a 79-year-old man who was being mugged.

The robbery occurred around 8:30 p.m. Saturday, when the victim, Yusuf Hizel, was on an eastbound train along the Bloor-Danforth line.

According to Hizel, the confrontation began after a man, who was seated beside him, asked for change. Hizel refused, but was then approached by another suspect who asked the same question. When Hizel refused again, he got up to reach for the passenger-assistance alarm — the yellow strip located above the seats on all trains — and was then attacked.

Despite being held down as his wallet was taken, Hizel said none of the onlookers came to his rescue, even as he cried out for help.

"People didn't have a reaction — they just looked at me," Hizel said.

"I was frustrated."

Hizel got off the train and tried to chase down the suspects at Chester station, where a TTC ticket collector called the police.

His wallet was later found outside the station.

Investigators say it is unclear why none of the passengers came to the man's aid, but are appealing for witnesses to speak to police. They are also using security camera footage to piece together the identities of the muggers.

TTC spokesman Brad Ross reminded the public that the passenger-assistance alarm is silent when pressed. It sounds an alarm only in the cabs of the guard and driver. Transit control is also alerted so it can call police, he said.

Transit records show that nobody hit the alarm during Saturday's incident.

Transit officials said snatch-and-grabs of iPods, cellphones and other items are common. However, such a brazen attack on an elderly passenger is "rare," Ross added.

Hizel says he isn't sure why he was targeted, but says he will never travel on the subway alone again.

"Somebody should be with me and help me."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yusuf Hizel, talks to reporters with his wife Emine one day after allegedly being mugged on a subway car while onlookers watched and did nothing.

Full-day kindergarten gets final approval, begins this fall

EDUCATION Legislation to begin all-day learning for four- and five-year-olds in Ontario has been given final approval by the legislature.

The program, which will see teachers sharing the classroom with early childhood educators, will start this fall and expand across Ontario by 2015 at an estimated cost of $1.5 billion a year.

The bill calls on school boards to offer full-day junior and senior kindergarten, in addition to extended-day programs before and after class and even on days when schools are closed.

Parents can pay extra for child care before 9 a.m. and after 3:30 p.m., and there will be subsidies available for low-income families.

Boards will be allowed to use outside providers to help with the day-care programs, but only until current contracts expire.

The government says school boards must provide the all-day learning programs with their own staff within two years.

The government expects to hire 3,800 new teachers and more than 20,000 new early childhood educators over the next five years for the expanded programs for young children.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New sex-ed program may not be changed: Minister

HEALTH The government's promised "rethink" of Ontario's proposed new sex-education curriculum for elementary students may not result in any significant changes, Education Minister Leona Dombrowsky suggested yesterday.

Premier Dalton McGuinty last week did an about face on the new curriculum, admitting the government should have done more to consult parents.

Leona Dombrowsky

Both Dombrowsky and McGuinty promise parents will be consulted on a new curriculum, but the education minister acknowledged a lot of the ideas could go forward as originally proposed.

"There may be a range of options of either moving the entire document forward quickly or moving parts of the document forward quickly and saving other parts of it for (a) more robust consultation process," Dombrowsky told reporters.

The minister wouldn't say what specific aspects of the new curriculum were of concern to parents, and dismissed opposition claims that most parents in Ontario opposed the changes.

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Acquitted man files suit against police
A man acquitted of murder in the asphyxiation of his lover, prominent gay-bar owner Janko Naglic, has filed a $10-million lawsuit against Toronto police. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Care threatened by exec paydays: Critics

NDP issues warning after $3-million revelation

Premier Dalton McGuinty must cap the soaring salaries of hospital executives or risk jeopardizing Ontario's health-care system with the layoff of hundreds of front-line workers, critics said yesterday.

The call comes after a union revealed that a hospital executive in the Toronto area pocketed nearly $3 million in compensation over five years, including two years of double-digit increases.

The salary of Dan Carriere, CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, has climbed to $785,000, according to the Service Employees International Union. Hospital staff have been without a contract since last August.

"Ontario families want to see responsible, smart health reform that protects patients and front-line services, but instead we see cancer patients left without support," NDP Leader Andrea Horwath told the legislature.

Andrea Horwath

"We see new moms left on their own, emergency rooms closed — and all this as hospital CEOs continue to rake in exorbitant salaries and pocket huge raises like the one at Newmarket's Southlake Regional Health Centre, who received an 81 per cent raise and has made $2.9 million over five years."

A spokesperson for Southlake hospital was not immediately available to comment on Carriere's salary. But the NDP say McGuinty has a clear choice: Either cap executive salaries or allow further layoffs among front-line health workers.

The premier seemed reluctant to cap executive pay, saying it's up to hospital boards to control their salaries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deficits

- Even though provincial law forbids hospitals from running deficits, about 40 per cent couldn't balance their books last spring, according to the Ontario Hospital Association.

U of T building evacuated over chemical scare

INVESTIGATION People were set to return to a University of Toronto building yesterday afternoon after it was evacuated because it was feared a dangerous chemical could explode.

The precautionary evacuation was ordered at the Banting and Best Medical Research building on College Street near University Avenue.

The area was shut down for more than an hour.

While officials at the lab say there was no spill, a vial of picric acid crystalized and they say that could have become dangerous.

Had the vial been shaken or fallen off a shelf, it could have exploded.

An internal investigation is now underway to determine how the chemical crystallized into an explosive form.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Door opens for some talks with pharmacists

HEALTH Some pharmacists are willing to sit down and talk about the government's proposed changes to Ontario's prescription drugs system, Health Minister Deb Matthews said yesterday, suggesting there's a glimmer of hope in the long-standing battle.

Deb Matthews

"I sure want to talk to the pharmacists, they've cancelled two meetings, they told me they wouldn't be available until late May, but then I did get a letter from (The Ontario Pharmacists Association) saying it's time to sit down," Matthews said.

"I very much want to sit down with pharmacists and talk about what services they could provide and what would be fair compensation for them."

That small step is unlikely to end the ongoing battle, however, since The Coalition of Community Pharmacies, which has been the strongest opponent to the changes, still disagrees with the proposal.

Ben Shenouda of the Independent Pharmacists Association said the coalition wanted Matthews to extend the deadline for responses and re-open negotiations into the changes, but she hasn't given any indication she's willing to do so.

"The two groups are not different when it comes to the objectives, but we are against the fact that she would ask for OPA only, without the other stakeholders who will be heavily impacted by this regulation," Shenouda said.

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Councillor urges fight against Brampton condo ruling

A Brampton politician is urging his council colleagues to challenge a ruling that permits a large condo development in a community of single-family homes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nazim Gillani, a Toronto businessman caught in the middle of the Jaffer affair, is to testify before a Commons committee today.

Gillani set to testify

Jaffer associate at centre of illegal lobbying allegations

Nazim Gillani, whose dining choices, companions and business dealings have helped drag the federal Tories into the middle of the messy Jaffer-Guergis affair, has already provided a Commons committee with potentially more fuel for the fire.

Gillani is to testify today, but his spokesman Brian Kilgore said the committee already has in hand six documents, including what he says is a contract between Gillani's company and the company headed by former MP Rahim Jaffer and Jaffer's partner.

A timeline of events is also among the documents being examined by the Commons committee looking into allegations of illegal lobbying.

Gillani claimed in an email to colleagues last September that Jaffer would open doors to the Prime Minister's office for them.

Jaffer and his business partner Patrick Glemaud have consistently denied any improper lobbying, saying that they only ever approached government officials seeking information about different programs.

Gillani bills himself as "43 years old — single — very committed to my work," on a personal profile he maintains online.

The profile doesn't mention that when Gillani left Vancouver and headed East, he left a trail of unresolved lawsuits, accusations of unpaid bills and several angry clients who allege he owes them thousands of dollars.

Published reports claim Gillani fled Vancouver for Toronto in 1995, shortly after a violent run-in with a dissatisfied investor, but Kilgore said that and many other allegations are not true.

Today, Gillani is CEO of a Toronto-area company called International Strategic Investments, described on its website as "assisting companies identify and access various resources which they may be unaware of." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAMH smoking ban won't halt cigarette smuggling: Insiders

HEALTH A total ban on smoking at Toronto's major mental-health centres will not stop the active cigarette smuggling that's endemic at the facilities, people familiar with the situation say.

Beginning in July, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health will place an official smoking ban on any of the property surrounding its three major facilities.

The ban has long been in place in all centre buildings, but will be extended to the property lines. Patients who wish to smoke nine metres from hospital doors are currently allowed to do so.

But a common commerce in contraband cigarettes is likely to continue unabated under the ban, with relatives and patients sneaking illicit smokes to those not permitted to leave their wards.

"People will find ways to work around the system to accommodate their needs," said a senior mental-health nurse who asked that her name not be used.

"People will find ways to work around the system."
CAMH nurse

"If they are on the unit, they will have people bring cigarettes to them. Patients who are allowed to go out will bring a cigarette back to somebody who is not allowed to leave."

Under the new ban, staff will no longer give out cigarettes to patients who are allowed to leave their wards, where all tobacco products and lighters are completely banned.

Staff currently hold onto cigarettes for patients and dole them out one at a time as they go outside to smoke. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

FAILED ABDUCTION Toronto police are warning parents about an attempted abduction in North York on Monday. A man approached a nine-year-old girl and grabbed her by the arm on Yonge Boulevard near Wilson Avenue, but she managed to get away and called for help. Police are looking for a thin, white man in his 40s, with a black moustache and slight beard.

FIRE A woman is dead and a man is in hospital with serious burns after a fire broke out in a a home on Blythwood Road, near Yonge Street and Lawrence Avenue yesterday around 4 p.m.

ANIMAL ABUSER A man who repeatedly tortured his girlfriend's dogs until one succumbed to broken ribs, a fractured skull and two detached retinas has been sentenced to a year in jail. Christopher Michael Munroe of Toronto has also been banned from owning a dog for 25 years, must complete 150 hours of community service and pay $13,000 in vet bills to the owner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Harbord Collegiate teacher facing sexual exploitation charges

A 40-year-old teacher at a Toronto high school is facing sexual exploitation charges. Timothy Dingwall, a teacher at Harbord Collegiate Institute, is now on home assignment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GM pours $235M into plant

Investment to create 400 jobs at St. Catharines factory

A $235-million spending initiative by GM Canada, less than a year after the carmaker came close to collapse, has reinforced hopes that the North American auto sector is getting back on track and that Canadian governments will be able to recoup bailout money.

The investment at GM's powertrain plant in St. Catharines, Ont., will secure up to 400 jobs there, as part of the automaker's plans for a new generation of V-8 engines that it says will be more fuel-efficient.

Nearly half of the $890 million in plant improvements announced yesterday by Detroit-based General Motors Corp. — $400 million — will be spent at an engine plant in Tonawanda, N.Y., near Buffalo, affecting 710 jobs.

Although separated by the Canada-U.S. border, the two plants are within 70 kilometres of each other — an example of how integrated the North American auto manufacturing sector has become.

"I think there's no doubt about it, the trend line is moving in the right direction," Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty told reporters while touring GM's Canadian headquarters and car assembly plant in Oshawa.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, right, speaks in front of workers at the GM Canada assembly plant in Oshawa, Ont. yesterday.

Job losses reversing?

- GM Canada shed about 2,600 jobs with the closure of a truck plant in Oshawa last year. It also plans to shut down a transmission plant in Windsor, affecting more than 1,000 workers.
- However, the company has announced the recall of hundreds of workers to its Canadian plants to meet strong demand for some of its products.

Caribana unveils new events on heels of successful year

FESTIVAL With a little Jimmy Buffett and the sparkle of scantily clad dancers, Scotiabank Caribana unveiled its lineup with a bit of good news yesterday.

An Ipsos Reid survey showed festivalgoers spent $438 million in 2009. The survey estimated $313 million was spent in the GTA, mostly at restaurants, bars, hotels and on entertainment.

"We knew it was big, we knew we had fun, but the actual number was clearly a bit of a surprise to us," said Caribana chairman Joe Halstead. "I'm not sure we have more leverage, it just tells us we are very important to the city and the country."

Halstead was at the Royal Ontario Museum to announce the festival's 2010 lineup. In addition to Caribana mainstays, there will be more jerk chicken and rotis, thanks to a new food festival.

The fun gets underway in June with the Calypso Tents Music Series, featuring Toronto's top calypso entertainers in North York and downtown every weekend.

Caribana's official launch will be July 15 at Yonge-Dundas Square.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Focus on kids

- The goal is to have twice as many children participating this year, with reduced costume costs and free entry for some local children.

News in brief

EDUCATION Goodbye OCAD — hello OCAD U. Ontario's only university devoted to art now has a name that keeps the old, but ushers in the new. The newly christened Ontario College of Art & Design University grants undergraduate and graduate degrees, and conducts research, but still carried "college" in its name. The change was introduced yesterday in the legislature, and could take a few weeks to become official.

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Police officer guilty of impaired driving demoted

Hamilton police officer Kim Walker, 42, who recently pleaded guilty to impaired driving while off-duty, has been demoted to second-class constable from first-class constable for the next 14 months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Winnipeg MP stepping down

New Democrat MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis, left, is leaving federal politics. Effective Saturday, Wasylycia-Leis will resign the Winnipeg North seat she has held since 1997. A former culture minister in the Manitoba government of Howard Pawley, Wasylycia-Leis said yesterday it's the right time to move on. She said she wants to spend time with her family before making an announcement about her future. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM defends abortion stand

G8 Stephen Harper says there's plenty for Canada to spend its development dollars on besides abortion.

In his first detailed comments on his government's G8 policy, the prime minister defended the decision to exclude abortion from its Third World child- and maternal-health initiative.

"We have a lot of ways of saving lives," Harper told the Commons yesterday. "We're clear what initiatives we are funding ... there's more than enough to do in those areas."

The opposition blasted Harper for pandering to a socially conservative agenda that it said diminished Canada on the world stage and left it in lockstep with the values of the departed Republican administration of George W. Bush.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada insists U.S. onside

Officials deny rift over different approaches to family planning

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda, left, and Rajiv Shah, administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, head to a working session yesterday at a meeting of G8 development ministers in Halifax.

Canada's international co-operation minister insisted yesterday that the country is not at odds with its G8 partners over funding for abortion in the developing world despite a difference of opinion with the United States.

Bev Oda stepped out of day-long meetings with her international colleagues to stress that she and her American counterpart did not disagree on their approaches to improving maternal and child health.

"I want to assure you that Canada is listening as to the importance of family planning, the impact family planning can have in improving the health of mothers and children," she said at a brief news conference in Halifax, with her U.S. colleague at her side.

Rajiv Shah, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, also claimed the two countries are not at loggerheads over their differing approaches to maternal health.

The Obama administration has said it supports a woman's right to safe abortions in developing countries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Britain

- Britain has called for a maternal-health plan that doesn't place limits on family planning.

Another attempt at Senate reform

OTTAWA Prime Minister Stephen Harper is making his third stab in four years at bringing democracy to Canada's unelected Senate.

The bill, introduced yesterday in the Senate, sets out a voluntary framework for provinces to elect Senate nominees.

Harper would retain his power to appoint senators but is committing to consider the names of nominees chosen in provinces that hold elections.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sudbury boy found safe, father arrested

A 10-year-old Sudbury boy who was the subject of an Amber Alert was found safe in a home in Newmarket yesterday morning. The boy's father was arrested several hours later while driving in the same area. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go get some fresh air

Canadian kids not getting enough exercise: Study

Most Canadian kids are still failing to make the grade when it comes to meeting recommended physical activity guidelines, and fewer than half of youngsters under five are integrating physical activity into their daily routines, says a report released yesterday.

In its sixth annual report card, Active Healthy Kids Canada assigned an "F" for physical activity levels among Canadian children for the fourth straight year.

The report card reveals only 12 per cent of Canadian children and youth are getting the 90 minutes recommended for daily physical activity.

Meanwhile, young people devote considerable time to video games, computers and TV, accumulating six hours of screen time on weekdays and more than seven hours daily on weekends, the report says. The report also expressed concern that kids aren't spending enough time being active in their early years.

Increasingly sedentary behaviours are replacing what would have been active playtime for young children in the past, leading and contributing to the increase in kids being overweight and obese — which is associated with other psychosocial and health problems, said Mark Tremblay, chief scientific officer of Active Healthy Kids Canada.

"This is very disturbing because it sets kids on a trajectory that the evidence shows it's not one that we would desire," he said.

Tremblay believes the reason so many kids are failing to meet recommended activity levels is that there's not enough being done in society to affect change.

RICHARD BUCHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not enough Canadian youngsters are incorporating sufficient physical activity into their daily routines, says a new report.

Substantial social shifts causing individuals to move less and sit more are also a factor, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Showdown brewing over crime law costs

CRIME A price tag for part of the Conservatives' law-and-order agenda is about to be made public — and the number is in the billions, far higher than any previous estimates.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer forecasts the cost of implementing just one of the Tories' many tough-on-crime bills is between $7 billion and $10 billion over the next five years.

Kevin Page's complex investigation into the budget implications of the so-called "Truth in Sentencing" legislation — also known as the two-for-one sentencing law — is expected to be made public early next week. Sources familiar with the document told The Canadian Press the study concludes the provinces will have to pick up about three-quarters of the costs, while Ottawa pays the rest.

The cash-strapped governments of Quebec and Ontario will be particularly hard hit.

"The provinces have walked into this with their eyes closed," said Craig Jones, executive director of the John Howard Society of Canada.

The report is likely to provoke a showdown between Page's office and the government over the credibility of the analysis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Chicken-caging'

The federal government says much of the increased costs could be absorbed by shuffling prisoners to jails where there's more space, or by more double-bunking — putting two prisoners in one cell. But critics call that practice "chicken-caging" and say it would be a betrayal of Canada's international commitments to maintain corrections standards.

News in brief

CORRUPTION A probe into Quebec's construction industry has netted two more people allegedly involved in municipal corruption. The accused are businessmen who allegedly offered money to a Quebec City employee in exchange for a permit for a housing project. Authorities say the municipal employee co-operated with police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Housing market boom won't last, Bank of Canada warns

ECONOMY Canada's hot housing market will likely start cooling off this quarter and continue at a lower level of activity over the next few years, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says. He said yesterday that economic activity, including the housing market, has rebounded strongly from recession — perhaps too strongly in the case of housing. But he said he expects activity in the housing market to slow in the current quarter.

"We see a marked weakening in housing over the course of our projection (into 2012), starting from the second quarter of this year and over the balance," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pathogens pay off

A Saskatoon teenager with a passion for studying pathogens has become the youngest person to win the top prize in the 17-year history of a national biotech competition.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fourteen-year-old Rui Song is the youngest person to win the Sanofi-Aventis BioTalent Challenge.

Rui Song, 14, took the $5,000 prize yesterday at the Sanofi-Aventis BioTalent Challenge in Ottawa, winning for her research on fungus that attacks lentils, a major agricultural export. The Grade 9 student's project involved searching for molecular markers that can differentiate two closely related types of fungus, one of which attacks plants more aggressively and causes substantial crop loss.

"This disease ... can decrease yields by 50 per cent, and almost 10 per cent of your seed value can be lost through seed staining ... it's an extremely detrimental disease," she said after collecting her prize.

If farmers were able to determine that the milder fungus was attacking their crops it would save them time, money and effort as they could do without spraying a fungicide, said one of the judges.

While Song didn't uncover the definitive identifier, she said her research into 50 of the 2,000 potential genetic markers provides a promising direction for more detailed research in the future. One of the judges, Dr. Denis Kay, says there "absolutely" would be commercial applications down the road.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRIME RATES A new Statistics Canada report says Manitoba had the highest per-capita rate of robberies in 2008, followed by Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta. Manitoba robbers were also more often armed with knives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

There are two sides to every story

TheWestView

Unlike Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, I've seen James Cameron's blockbuster movie Avatar.

If you haven't seen it yet, I recommend it. It's science fantasy set 125 years in the future on a planet far, far away. Earthlings, hot for a metal called "unobtanium," colonize and then push around giant, blue indigenous people in order to obtain as much unobtanium as possible.

They make a mess of beautiful Pandora, much the way the oilsands are making a mess of northern Alberta. Struck by the parallels, George Poitras, an aboriginal leader from Alberta, invited Cameron to see the oilsands for himself. Not to be outdone, Stelmach extended his own invitation, hoping to co-opt the inevitable photo op featuring the Hollywood director rescuing ducks from tailing ponds.

Cameron is probably wondering what he got himself into. It's his own fault: He threw unobtanium on the fire by calling the oilsands a "black eye" on Canada's reputation, saying it's the "wrong solution" for our energy requirements. Well, the reason the oilsands exist at all is that they are the only solution, as all the alternative energy sources don't even come close to meeting our needs — and they come with their own problems.

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If you don't think those are serious, you're not familiar with the giant stink in B.C., my home province, over hydroelectric power, generally viewed as clean energy when compared to petroleum.

Avatar is a cautionary tale about what happens when greed rules. I won't spoil the ending; there are still plenty of people who want to see it — it's the fastest selling home video of all time: 6.7 million copies in four days.

Not bad for a retelling of the old Cowboys vs. Indians dusters we cut our teeth on, although this time, the Indians are the good guys.

But look, it's a fantasy. Here on Gaia, Cameron needs plenty of unobtanium to power his 8,272-square-foot mansion, dirt bikes, Ducati, Ford GT, Corvettes, submersibles, etc. At one point, he owned a helicopter. He flew a private jet to protest the construction of a dam in Brazil. I'm not saying he's a hypocrite — but he lives in Malibu, for goodness sake — and is at the very least conflicted.

So, Ed Stelmach should rent Cameron's movie. He might look at the environment as something other than a necessary evil. And Cameron should visit Stelmach's oilsands and find out what makes his ginormous carbon footprint possible.

And then the two of them should get real.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: If you could fill the governor general position with any Canadian you wanted, who would it be?

Natasha Sirman
Toronto

A: I thought Adrienne Clarkson did a great job. When I was in high school, my class took a trip to Ottawa and I got to meet her and shake her hand. I was very impressed by her.

Jesse Bouchard
Toronto

A: I'd like to see a Canadian that doesn't have a background in politics ... someone who has worked in Canada alongside the rest of the population would know how to represent our country the best.

Seanna Harkness
Toronto

A: Mike Meyers. He's intelligent and compassionate, and he always sticks up for Canadians. Plus he's funny.

Barry Symbaluk
Edmonton

A: I'll have to go with Don Cherry. I'd think he'd make a good governor general because he's pretty political. He's also really opinionated and definitely Canadian.

Rebecca Hall
Ottawa

A: William Shatner because his ability to be the captain of a starship and be a beat poet is pretty impressive.

Greg Lawson
Halifax

A: Romeo Dallaire. He's done a lot for this country. I think he's very deserving.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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White House will provide some material on Fort Hood investigation
The Obama administration said yesterday it will provide some but not all the materials a U.S. Senate committee wants on last year's shooting rampage at a Texas military base, setting up a potential legal showdown with Congress. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Korean woman on top of the world

A South Korean became the first woman to scale the world's 14 highest mountains yesterday. Oh Eun-sun, 44, left, arrived at the final, steep stretch of Annapurna in the Himalayas 13 hours after she left the last camp to beat a Spanish rival to the record. Officials said Annapurna was the last of the 14 peaks above 8,000 metres Oh needed to climb to set the mark. She reached the summit — 8,091 metres above sea level — 13 years after she scaled her first Himalayan mountain, Gasherbrum II, in 1997. She scaled Everest in 2004. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cops were unsure of Nessie's safety

SCOTLAND What lurks beneath the dark waters of Loch Ness? Newly released documents on display yesterday show that during the 1930s, police were convinced some sort of creature inhabited the lake — so sure, in fact, that they worried about how to protect it from big-game hunters. The files from the National Archive of Scotland show that local officials asked Britain's parliament to investigate the issue and confirm the monster's existence. "That there is some strange creature in Loch Ness now seems beyond doubt," wrote William Fraser, a senior police officer, "but that the police have any power to protect it is very doubtful." The Nessie Files, kept secret for 70 years, were revealed as part of an exhibition on government secrecy.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chaos in Ukrainian parliament

Eggs, smoke bombs, fists thrown over treaty with Russian navy

The speaker of Ukraine's parliament huddled under umbrellas as eggs rained down and smoke bombs filled the chamber with an acrid cloud. Then the lawmakers attacked each other, punching and brawling in the aisles.

The chaos erupted yesterday as parliament approved a treaty allowing Russia to extend the lease on a naval base in a Ukrainian port on the Black Sea until 2042 — a move bitterly opposed by pro-Western lawmakers. Ukraine would get cheap natural gas from Russia in exchange.

Russia's influence in Ukraine has surged since the February election victory of pro-Kremlin President Viktor Yanukovych, infuriating Ukrainians who resent Moscow's influence and inflaming the violent passions that plague the politics of the former Soviet republic.

SERGEY GHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukrainian lawmakers fight each other in Kiev yesterday during ratification of the Black Sea fleet deal with Russia.

As parliament speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn opened yesterday's session, opposition members threw eggs at him, forcing him to preside behind two black umbrellas held by aides.

Opposition lawmakers draped a huge Ukrainian flag over their seats, a signal they would abstain from voting. About seven minutes into the session, a smoke bomb went off and another was hurled from the back of the gallery. The chamber filled with an acrid cloud as smoke alarms went off — unprecedented scenes in the parliament.

The lawmakers' bickering deteriorated into members throwing punches and grappling during the nationally televised session. The opposition bloc Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defence said one of its lawmakers was hospitalized with a concussion after fighting with Yanukovych's party.

Outside, riot police kept back crowds of opposition supporters. No arrests were reported.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SOMALIA At least 14 civilians were killed yesterday during a prolonged battle between government soldiers and Islamic insurgents that followed a separate suicide car bomb attack in the capital of Mogadishu, officials said. Four people were wounded, including two African Union troops, in the suicide attack earlier. After the attack, Islamic insurgents attacked government soldiers and militiamen allied to the government. The clash sparked a four-hour battle.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Noriega sent back to jail

Former Panamanian dictator imprisoned hours after arrival in France

Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, fresh out of a Miami prison where he spent two decades, was sent back behind bars in France yesterday to await a new legal battle — this time on charges he laundered cocaine profits by buying luxury apartments in Paris.

THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police car carrying Manuel Noriega, hidden by a white sheet, leaves a Paris courthouse yesterday. A French judge ordered Noriega jailed pending a trial for money laundering.

Hours after Noriega arrived in Paris following his extradition from the United States, a judge deemed him a flight risk and dispatched him to La Sante, a prison in southern Paris. Famous past La Sante inmates include convicted terrorist Carlos the Jackal and Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon.

Noriega lost his first battle on French territory — he unsuccessfully pressed a judge to send him home to Panama. If convicted in France, he could face another 10 years in prison, a daunting prospect for the 72-year-old.

Noriega's French lawyers said they will appeal the decision putting him behind bars and say his detention and transfer are unlawful.

If Noriega had been released in France, even to house arrest, it would have been a victory after a generation in prison. It could also have been an awkward situation for France, where a string of former dictators from Haiti to Africa have settled or bought second homes in the past.

Officials are to set a trial date of May 12 for Noriega, who was deposed after a 1989 U.S. invasion and imprisoned in Florida for drug trafficking.

After finishing his U.S. sentence, he was extradited from Miami and sent on a direct flight to Paris, where he was immediately served with an arrest warrant yesterday.

France already has convicted Noriega and his wife in absentia of laundering some $7 million in cocaine profits through three major French banks and using drug cash to invest in three posh Paris apartments.

In a hearing before Paris judge Jean-Michel Maton, Noriega pleaded to be sent home to Panama, citing his prisoner of war status.

"I don't agree with the action against me," he said through a translator.

Noriega was Panama's longtime intelligence chief before he took power in 1982.

He had been considered a valued CIA asset for years, but as a ruler he joined forces with drug traffickers and was implicated in the death of a political opponent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israelis demolish illegal structures

MIDDLE EAST Israeli security forces demolished a handful of illegal structures in West Bank settlements yesterday, including a wooden bunker that hard-line Jewish activists had defiantly named after U.S. President Barack Obama.

Israeli forces also clashed with Palestinian protesters opposed to construction of Israel's West Bank separation barrier. Nine structures in Jewish settlements were removed, including a wooden bunker north of Jerusalem known as "Obama's Shack," Israeli military officials said. Young settlers threw burning tires at security forces in another location, and two people were arrested.

The crackdown coincided with growing signs that Israel and the Palestinians are on the verge of resuming peace talks after a breakdown of more than a year.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that he will discuss resuming the talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak when he travels early next week to Egypt, which is a key mediator between the sides.

On Monday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas signalled he is ready to start indirect negotiations.

Authorities said the structures demolished yesterday had been built in violation of a 10-month freeze on new construction in West Bank settlements.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ARMS Egypt warned yesterday of a new escalation between Israel and Lebanon over allegations that Syria has been supplying Hezbollah with Scud missiles. An Egyptian official urged U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to "defuse tensions" between the two nations.

MAINE A U.S. citizen on a flight from Paris to Atlanta claimed to have a fake passport and said he had explosives in his luggage, forcing air marshals to intervene and the plane to land in Maine, officials said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Netherlands **Tulip tour**

MARCEL ANTONISSE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Springtime strollers enjoy blossoming tulip fields yesterday near Schagerbrug, in northwest Netherlands.

More to come: Thai protesters

Thai protesters forced a shutdown of Bangkok's busy elevated train system yesterday and promised to expand their street demonstrations, escalating weeks of anti-government demonstrations that have paralyzed much of the capital.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said he hoped to resolve the standoff peacefully even as the government cancelled garbage collection in the barricaded encampment in the city's commercial district that thousands of protesters have occupied since last month.

With many Thais losing patience, the government has yet to outline a plan on how to end the sporadically violent crisis after calling off negotiations with the protesters, who consider the government illegitimate and want parliament disbanded.

At least 26 people have been killed and nearly 1,000 wounded since protesters known as the Red Shirts began occupying parts of Bangkok in mid-March, closing down five-star hotels and shopping malls and devastating the country's vital tourism industry.

The Red Shirts have since fortified their stronghold, erecting barricades of tires, bamboo sticks and fencing along the streets. They have also set up barricades on roads leading to the capital to block police reinforcements.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Having their say

- A Red shirt leader said his group planned to spread out from its encampment today, sending teams with speaker trucks to distribute leaflets and video CDs explaining their side of the story.

Arizona law cuts along party lines

IMMIGRATION Backed into a corner by border state Arizona's tough new immigration law, Democrats and Republicans alike find themselves grappling with a volatile issue neither party wanted to fight over just before U.S. congressional elections in November.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, in the midst of a tough Republican primary battle, signed a law requiring police to question people about their status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally.

U.S. President Barack Obama has instructed the Justice Department to examine the Arizona law that he said threatens to "undermine basic notions of fairness." He also has pressed anew for national immigration legislation, saying, "If we continue to fail to act at a federal level, we will continue to see misguided efforts opening up around the country."

Protests against the Arizona law erupted overnight. Conservatives applauded the measure as necessary to stop a flow of illegal immigrants from Mexico. Liberals decried it as a threat to civil rights. The Roman Catholic cardinal in Los Angeles compared the law's rules to Nazism.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, in his own tough re-election fight in Hispanic-heavy Nevada, renewed his promise to pursue immigration legislation even as the Senate works on financial regulatory reform and climate change. That prompted Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, who backs comprehensive immigration reform, to threaten to withhold his support for the climate bill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-bullying policy drafted in wake of suicide

EDUCATION The Massachusetts school district where authorities say an Irish immigrant student was driven to suicide by bullying has drafted a new anti-bullying policy.

The draft made public Monday was drawn up by a 31-person task force appointed in February after Phoebe Prince, 15, hanged herself. Prosecutors say her death followed "relentless" bullying by fellow South Hadley students.

The Springfield Republican reports the draft specifically defines bullying and spells possible discipline.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Afghan official calls for calm after deadly attacks

The powerful half-brother of Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai urged the international aid community not to pull out of the troubled southern city of Kandahar, where insurgents attacked last night, killing at least three and injuring dozens.

Kandahar Police Chief Sher Mohammed Zazai said militants detonated explosives near the city in an attack targeting a compound providing logistical support to NATO forces. He said at least three people were killed about two kilometres from Kandahar Air Field. Hospital workers said at least 35 others were injured.

There were conflicting casualty reports. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf said one suicide bomber and two armed insurgents killed 15 people and wounded 60 others and burned eight oil tankers on the site. Zulmai Ayubi, a spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor, put the death toll at four and said 30 were injured.

Kandahar is the site of a planned offensive by Afghan and NATO forces to clear the city of Taliban fighters and break the grip of warlords who have allowed the militants to slip back in.

U.S. President Barack Obama has ordered 30,000 more troops into Afghanistan, in part to back up the Kandahar offensive, but the Taliban have launched increasingly deadly attacks ahead of the offensive.

On Monday, the United Nations announced that it had relocated several foreign employees from Kandahar to Kabul and told more than 200 Afghan workers to stay home. The announcement came hours after three bombings shook the city.

"We are not facing a big threat," said Ahmad Wali Karzai, the president's half brother and a top official in Kandahar province.

He added that the security situation was far worse a few years ago.

"You get one or two incidents once or twice a week. That shouldn't be a concern. A suicide attack can happen anywhere."

Later, Karzai told reporters in Kandahar that pulling out of the city plays into the Taliban's hands and would affect humanitarian assistance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death toll

- Since April 12, at least 20 civilians, including eight children, have been killed in Kandahar, according to an Associated Press count.

Dubai skyscraper welcomes new tenant

OPENING A luxury hotel crafted by designer Giorgio Armani opened yesterday as the first landmark tenant in the world's tallest skyscraper, hoping to entice the wealthy Gulf region's image-conscious big spenders with Italian runway style.

The 160-room Armani Hotel Dubai is a welcome bit of good news for Dubai's leaders after the troubled debut of the more than 828-metre-high Burj Khalifa in January.

An elevator malfunction forced a two-month closure of the spire's observation deck — the only part of the tower open to the public.

The Italian designer was on hand for yesterday's opening ceremony, which was delayed a week because of the travel chaos caused by the Icelandic volcano.

He said his goal was to build a comfortable and stylish hotel that would leave an impression.

"I wanted something very important, something to be remembered," Armani said. "Something not just for the present, but beyond."

Armani was joined by the chairman of Burj Khalifa's developer, Emaar Properties, which has a deal to open more Armani-branded hotels, including the next one in Milan.

They have not disclosed financial details of their partnership.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KAMRAN JEBREILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani, left, and Emaar Properties chairman Mohamed Alabbar cut the ribbon yesterday during the opening ceremony of the Armani Hotel in Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

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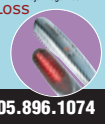

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Top diplomats back Obama's budget plan

All eight living U.S. secretaries of state have signed a joint letter urging Congress not to slash U.S. President Barack Obama's proposed $58.5-billion US foreign affairs budget. They called the request critical to America's security and global presence.

The letter was sent to Congress after the Senate Budget Committee stripped $4 billion US from the spending plan last week. The former top diplomats from Democratic and Republican administrations dating to 1973 argued that full funding of the spending plan is essential.

"Increasing the investment in our civilian international capabilities will keep America safer by, among other things, addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism, supporting key allies, and demonstrating America's proud tradition of global leadership," they wrote.

"We urge you to support the funding level proposed by President Barack Obama for the International Affairs Budget and to oppose any effort to cut that request," the letter said. "This is one area where Democrats and Republicans can agree and should come together to help ensure a more secure and prosperous future for our nation."

The letter was released yesterday by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, a network of foreign policy experts that has advocated for greater spending on international affairs programs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SETH PERLMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama waves yesterday as he steps off Air Force One as he arrives in Quincy, Ill.

Oil spilling into Gulf of Mexico may be set on fire by crews

LOUISIANA Crews may set fires to burn off oil being spewed into the Gulf of Mexico by a blown-out well, the U.S. Coast Guard said yesterday.

Pools of oil far offshore would be trapped in special containment booms and set aflame as soon as today, Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said.

Efforts so far have failed to shut off the flow of oil nearly 1,525 metres below where the rig Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank last week. Robot subs are still working on it.

"If we don't secure this well, this could be one of the most significant oil spills in U.S. history," Landry said.

A similar burn off the coast of Newfoundland in 1993 eliminated 50 to 99 per cent of captured oil. Burning the oil could create some air pollution, and the effect on any marine life is unclear.

The oil is now about 32 kilometres off the coast of Venice, La., the closest it's been to land. But it's still not expected to reach the coast before Friday, if at all. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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American Airlines delays Chicago-Beijing flights

American Airlines is delaying the launch of flights between Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and Beijing until it gets approval for certain takeoff and landing times from Chinese authorities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Loonie dives on Europe debt fears

The Canadian dollar plunged more than a cent and a half yesterday after traders turned to the U.S. dollar in a so-called flight to quality as fears intensified about a worsening European debt crisis.

The loonie dropped to 1.59 cents to close at 98.27 cents US on currency markets, just off its intraday low of 98.21 cents.

Canada's dollar has been trading just above or below parity with the American currency in recent weeks based on the comparative strength of the Canadian economy and the prospects of higher interest rates in Canada, an attraction to global investors and money traders.

But yesterday's plunge in the loonie shows how financial turbulence can hurt even the world's strongest currencies when investors rapidly shift billions of dollars into safe-havens like the American greenback. As that flight to safety trend intensifies, traditionally strong currencies like the Canadian and Australian dollars, the euro and even the Japanese yen get caught in the crossfire and fall against the greenback.

So, a downgrade of Greece's debt rating to junk status early yesterday put downward pressure on the loonie and other currencies, as traders sold some of their holdings to buy American dollars.

David Watt, senior fixed income and currency strategist at RBC Capital Markets, said "the downgrades blew away any resilience that people had to holding onto risky (currency) positions, and it just caused profit taking.

"We might be in a period of seeing an outbreak of risk aversion, but that's not clear yet."

Watt said the volatility may last a while yet until the picture is clear about the outlook for European debt crisis — caused by heavy borrowing and sharply rising government deficits worsened by the recession.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GREEK DEBT, PAGE 21

Goldman Sachs under fire

MARKET The U.S. Senate dumped the soiled laundry of the market meltdown at the feet of one of America's most storied financial houses yesterday, accusing Goldman Sachs executives of betting against the collapsing financial market at the expense of their unknowing clients.

Top company officials defended their conduct, denying the allegations.

Sen. Carl Levin, who heads the Senate subcommittee holding the hearing, asked Daniel Sparks, the former head of the investment giant's mortgages department, about a $1-billion US product known as Timberwolf that the company sold to investors while betting against it. Levin repeatedly made reference to an internal Goldman Sachs email that stated: "Boy, that Timberwolf was one shitty deal."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Value

- Timberwolf, known as a collateralized debt obligation, lost 80 per cent of its value during the meltdown and was liquidated in 2008.

Rona looking past recession

RETAIL Home hardware retailer Rona Inc. is well positioned to capitalize on the economic recovery after a challenging 2009, the Quebec retailer's CEO told its annual meeting yesterday.

The company has a strong balance sheet and innovative new marketing and merchandising programs that will help drive renewed growth in a rapidly changing market, president and CEO Robert Dutton told shareholders.

In a bid to boost sales and compete against rivals, Rona is now focused on households, not just individuals, since decisions on buying hardware and renovations are made by women as well as men.

In addition, the company is embracing environmental sustainable development as a way to attract new customers and is trying to attract next-generation entrepreneurs as store owners and franchise holders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CEO Claude Mongeau poses for a photograph at CN Rail's annual meeting in Montreal yesterday.

CN Rail looks to Asia for growth

RAILWAYS Growing Asian demand for North American commodities will assist Canadian National Railway's growth during what is expected to be at least a gradual overall economic recovery, its new chief executive said.

While the U.S. and Canadian economies are slowly gaining traction, increased demand by China, India and other growing economies will push shipments, Claude Mongeau said at the railway's annual meeting. "I think potash and coal are destined for a great future as these emerging economies continue to grow," he told shareholders.

Mongeau said the demand is driven in China and other markets by the increasing use of wood products in Asian building codes. Chinese demand is also driving imports of Canadian pulp, even though paper demand remains challenged.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

FORESTRY Toronto-based forestry company Norbord Inc. narrowed its net loss sharply in the first quarter as higher sales and a tax refund helped offset operating problems at its mills. Norbord said yesterday it had a net loss of $5 million US or 12 cents a share in the first quarter, down from a loss of $22 million or 52 cents a share for the same period a year earlier.

CONTRACT Bell Aliant announced yesterday it has reached a tentative contract agreement with the union representing almost 3,000 of its employees in Atlantic Canada. Details of the agreement with the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Atlantic Communications Council were being withheld pending ratification. The company said the ratification will begin May 3 and conclude June 3. The new agreement will replace the current agreement originally set to expire Dec. 31, 2011. The new pact would remain in effect until Dec. 31, 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Germany's first offshore wind farm fans hopes of an industry revolution.

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Businesses confident but consumers wary

Confidence index lowest since December

The Canadian economic recovery is getting a vote of confidence from business executives, but Canadian consumers still need convincing, two new surveys suggest.

The Conference Board of Canada's consumer confidence index fell a surprising and statistically significant 7.8 points this month to 84.8, the lowest it's been since December.

The gloomy finding comes as a U.S. survey found consumer confidence there rising, although the mood of Americans remained far more pessimistic in comparison with Canadians.

40 The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants quarterly survey of business executives found optimism was lowest in Ontario, the epicentre of the recession, although at 40 per cent, sentiment is far brighter than the 16 per cent reading obtained three months ago.

Meanwhile, a survey of chartered accountant executives working for Canadian companies found 61 per cent were optimistic about the economy. That was up 13 points from three months ago and only six points off the pre-recession peak.

Conference Board economist Todd Crawford said his survey's results on consumer confidence were "a little bit disconcerting," given the improving economic conditions, including the resumption of job growth. About 180,000 jobs have been added since July.

The drop in consumer confidence in April followed gains in two of the previous three months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

South Korea **Economy rebounds**

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A South Korean woman walks past a luxury shop in Seoul yesterday. South Korea's economic growth sharply accelerated in the first quarter of 2010 amid a rebound in manufacturing, exports and spending, the central bank said. Gross domestic product expanded 1.8 per cent from the fourth quarter last year when it grew 0.2 per cent, the Bank of Korea announced.

Greek bonds downgraded to junk

ECONOMY Europe's government debt crisis worsened ominously yesterday when Greek bonds were downgraded to junk status and Portugal's debt was lowered on fears the trouble could spread. Stocks in Europe and North America slid on the news.

German reluctance to fund the lion's share of a €45 billion ($60.2 billion) bailout of Greece by European governments and the International Monetary Fund is sending shudders through markets that the money may not reach Greece by May 19, when €8.5 billion in payments come due.

Germany wants to see a commitment to deep, long-term cutbacks in Greek government services and benefits before it agrees to provide its €8.4 billion of the bailout cash. But investors remain highly skeptical that Greek voters, who are used to generous benefits and worker protections, will accept a drop in living standards. They also worry that the proposed bailout will not cure Greece's long-term imbalance between its soaring debt and tepid prospects of economic growth.

A default by Greece would hurt the shared euro currency and could lead to the debt crisis spreading to other countries with shaky finances such as Portugal and Spain, threatening them with the same vicious spiral of default fears leading to higher rates.

Standard & Poor's downgraded its credit rating on Portugal to A- amid mounting concerns about the country's ability to get a handle on its debt load.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Higher costs

- Standard & Poor's move to downgrade Greek bonds deprives Greece of an investment-grade rating on its bonds, meaning it would pay higher costs to borrow if it taps debt markets again.
- The agency said Greece's weak long-term growth prospects made it less creditworthy.

Flyers' Laperriere likely done for season

The Philadelphia Flyers say forward Ian Laperriere has a brain contusion and mild concussion and is probably out for the rest of the season. Laperriere was hit by a puck blocking a shot during the third period of last Thursday's first-round playoff game with the New Jersey Devils. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Savard given OK to play

Marc Savard, left, has been cleared to play and will be available for the Boston Bruins' second-round playoff series against Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. Bruins general manager Peter Chiarelli made the announcement yesterday during a conference call, saying Savard was tested by Dr. Jeremy Schmahamann the previous day and got the OK to return to the ice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Jays waste strong start by Marcum

MLB RESULTS

Red Sox 2 **Blue Jays** 1

VS

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Shaun Marcum did everything he could to earn his first win in two years last night, but was let down by a struggling bullpen, which wasted his effort in a 2-1 loss at home to the Boston Red Sox.

Marcum pitched seven solid innings, but received a no-decision for the fourth time in five starts since taking over as the team's ace in place of the departed Roy Halladay. The Blue Jays have lost four straight, dropping below .500 (10-11) for the first time since they lost their season opener in Texas.

Boston scored the go-ahead run on a walk with the bases loaded in the eighth inning after Marcum had been relieved. Marcum, who missed all of last season, has not won a game since Sept. 11, 2008.

He allowed only one run against the Red Sox, while striking out five over seven innings.

His efforts were wasted in front of an announced crowd of 14,776 at Rogers Centre, which watched the team continue its fall back to Earth after a quick start to the season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Can Halak do it again?

Habs looking to goalie for another big game against Caps

At a team skate before Game 5 of their playoff series in Washington last week, Montreal Canadiens Mike Cammalleri and Andrei Markov decided they'd have some fun with goaltender Jaroslav Halak.

"It was a drill where the defenceman shoots and if there's a rebound you play it," Cammalleri said yesterday. "But we were playing the rebound, then passing back door for the open net, which is kind of not fair.

"In a game, you're never going to have that much time. As he was getting more angry, me and Marky were doing it more and more. Ah sucker! You know? He ended up playing great. So see? You can do whatever. He's not a guy you're afraid to talk to or whatever.

"If you do that to some goalies, they'll go right out of their net, into the locker room and they won't talk to you for two days."

Halak went out that night and made 37 saves in a 2-1 victory that kept Montreal alive in a series the high-scoring Capitals had hitherto dominated.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Montreal Canadiens goalie Jaroslav Halak takes a breather against the Washington Capitals in Game 5 of the NHL Eastern Conference quarter-finals last Friday in Washington, D.C.

Then he came back to Montreal and produced his masterpiece, a 53-save gem to lead the Canadiens to a 4-1 victory and even the best-of-seven NHL Eastern Conference series at three wins apiece. That set up a decisive Game 7 in Washington tonight.

Few people gave the eighth-seeded Canadiens any chance of beating the first-place overall Capitals. But the prospect of a winner-take-all seventh game had Canadiens fans for the first time since the playoffs started flying team flags and tooting horns in the street after the game.

A debate emerged on where Halak's performance stood in Canadiens history, with Ken Dryden's heroics as a rookie in the 1971 post-season against Chicago and Patrick Roy's overtime brilliance in 1986 against the New York Rangers as leading comparisons.

Halak will likely need another big game to get Montreal into the second round against a team whose shooters look increasingly desperate and frustrated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wade can't keep Heat alive

(Boston wins series 4-1)

Heat 86 **Celtics** 96

VS

The Boston Celtics are heading to the second round of the NBA playoffs and a potential matchup with LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Ray Allen scored 24 points, making five three-pointers in the second half, to help Boston beat Miami 96-86 in Game 5 of their first-round playoff series last night and eliminate the Heat.

Rajon Rondo added 16 points for Boston.

With Heat star Dwyane Wade due to become a free agent — along with James — it could be an eventful summer in Miami. Wade scored 31 points — far short of the franchise post-season-record 46 he scored in Game 4 to help the Heat stave off elimination.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen and Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade dive for a loose ball last night in Boston.

Sports in brief

SOCCER Bayern Munich brushed aside Lyon 3-0 yesterday to advance to its first Champions League final in nine years. Bayern will go for its fifth European Cup against either Barcelona or Inter Milan in the May 22 final. Barcelona hosts Inter today, with Inter leading 3-1.

BASEBALL Tampa Bay catcher Dioner Navarro began serving a two-game suspension yesterday for bumping an umpire during an argument. Navarro was ejected by plate umpire Dan Bellino during the sixth inning of Friday's game against the Blue Jays for arguing a pitch to Adam Lind that was called a ball.

NBA The family of late Washington Wizards owner Abe Pollin has agreed to the "major economic terms" of a deal to sell its stake in the NBA team to Washington Capitals owner Ted Leonsis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit at Phoenix

TODAY'S GAME

Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m. (Series tied 3-3)

NBA PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 96 Miami 86 (Celtics win series 4-1)
Cleveland 96 Chicago 94 (Cavaliers win series 4-1)
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers
San Antonio at Dallas

TODAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Atlanta, 8 p.m. (Series tied 2-2)
Utah at Denver, 10:30 p.m. (Jazz lead series 3-1)

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

Boston 2 TORONTO 1
Minnesota 2 Detroit 0
Tampa Bay 8 Oakland 6
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore
Chicago White Sox at Texas
Seattle at Kansas City
Cleveland at L.A. Angels

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

N.Y. Mets 4 L.A. Dodgers 0
San Diego 4 Florida 1
L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets (2nd game)
Cincinnati at Houston
Washington at Chicago Cubs
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
Atlanta at St. Louis
Arizona at Colorado
Philadelphia at San Francisco

TODAY'S AL GAMES

Seattle at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Angels, 7:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Boston at TORONTO, 7:07 p.m.
Oakland at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

TODAY'S NL GAMES

San Diego at Florida, 12:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.
Washington at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Arizona at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Atlanta at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.

Hawks' Crawford wins NBA Sixth Man award
Atlanta Hawks guard Jamal Crawford has been named the NBA Sixth Man of the Year. Crawford averaged 18 points per game in 31.1 minutes off the bench in his first season with Atlanta. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Big Pavelski' wants change

Rising star looking to craft new reputation for San Jose

Joe Pavelski is building quite a reputation among followers of the San Jose Sharks.

Some have even started calling him the "Big Pavelski" — a fitting tribute given that no one came up bigger for the team during a white-knuckle six-game series victory over Colorado in the first round.

However, the only reputation Pavelski is concerned about is the negative one that has followed his team around since he entered the NHL. And the 25-year-old forward is intent on seeing the Sharks drop their "playoff underachiever" label this spring.

"That is our reputation right now," he said yesterday on a conference call. "You've got to work extremely hard to change your reputation once something happens. A lot of us in that room have only been to the second round — a few guys won Cups and we know (we have) that experience — but you've always got to reprove yourself every year.

DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

San Jose Sharks forward Joe Pavelski scored five goals and added three assists in six games against the Avalanche during their first-round NHL playoff matchup.

"It's new territory. We've got to understand it only gets harder in more important games and the mental side of the game, I think, is really important for us."

Pavelski has been praised as much for his take-charge attitude as the team-leading five goals he scored against the Avalanche.

He was considered a candidate for the captaincy when veteran defenceman Rob Blake was given the "C" last summer and seems likely to assume that role eventually.

It could be an important transition for a talented Sharks team that hasn't got over the hump with Patrick Marleau and Joe Thornton comprising the leadership group. While those two are obviously still in the dressing room, Pavelski has gradually become a more integral part of the team.

Two of the goals he scored against Colorado were game winners, including one in overtime of Game 4 that prevented the Sharks from going down 3-1. San Jose never looked back and avoided another embarrassing first-round exit. "By no means was it a sigh of relief," Pavelski said of knocking off the Avalanche. "I think we were happy, we were excited. A lot of work went into that series."

In the second round, San Jose will face the winner of the Detroit-Phoenix series, which wrapped up last night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Howard, Magic ready to rest up and cool down

NBA First a sweep. Now some rest.

Dusting aside Charlotte has given the Orlando Magic some significant down time before their second-round series. They'll still have plenty to fix when they return to practice tomorrow, starting with getting Dwight Howard out of his foul-trouble funk.

Dwight Howard

They at least know one thing is certain.

"We're going to be well rested," Howard said, laughing. "Well, I'm going to be well rested."

Orlando will face the winner of the Atlanta-Milwaukee series no earlier than Sunday. That series is tied two games apiece, and if it goes seven games, the Magic won't begin the second round until next Tuesday — eight days between games.

A much bigger concern is their all-star centre finding his playoff poise.

About the only imprint Howard made in the first round was on his seat cushion, relegated to the bench in constant foul trouble. He fouled out in the last two games, played only 105 minutes and committed 22 fouls in four games.

Howard's hacking became so prevalent against the Bobcats that teammates even teased him with a new nickname. No longer Superman, they simply referred to him as "Foul on You."

The Magic might not find that so funny if the trend continues.

"It's something I've never been through," Howard said. "I never have been in a situation where I've had to sit out or things may not go my way.

"I think all this happens for a reason. So I am mad when it happens. But I go back home and I sit down and think about it, maybe (backup centre) Marcin (Gortat) and those other guys need a chance to step up and see what playoff basketball is like."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sicko changes his mind, signs with Cowboys

The Dallas Cowboys have signed tight end Scott Sicko, three days after the New Hampshire player said he was turning down the NFL to go to graduate school. Sicko signed a free agent contract yesterday, reversing course on a decision that he wouldn't pursue NFL offers after he wasn't taken in the draft. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL-bound Canucks give CFL clubs much to ponder for draft

Jim Barker and other CFL coaches and GMs have much more to consider this week as they prepare for the Canadian college draft.

With five top Canadian university prospects having either signed NFL contracts or committed to mini-camps this week, Barker and other CFL officials are back at the drawing board heading into the draft Sunday (TSN, noon ET). They're busy researching which players have the best chance of going to an NFL training camp this summer while reassessing who they'll select and when once the draft begins.

Jim Barker

And with three selections among the first 11 — including first overall — getting it right is crucial to Toronto head coach Barker, who is looking to rebuild an Argos club that posted a league-worst 3-15 record last year.

"There's no question it means doing a lot more research and following up," Barker said. "Everything we do in this league in the draft is based on probabilities, so the probabilities change as the circumstances change."

CFL officials knew months ago offensive linemen Joe Bender of Nevada and Danny Watkins of Baylor, as well as defensive linemen Brian Bulcke of Stanford and J'Michael Deane of Michigan State, were all returning to school this fall. All four are quality draft-eligible prospects, but because they're unavailable until next season, they're deemed future players who could be taken later in the draft after those prospects a team knows will be in training camp this summer.

Two such prospects included offensive linemen Joel Reinders of the Waterloo Warriors and Kristian Matte of the Concordia Stingers. But that all changed Saturday when they signed NFL deals with Cleveland and Houston, respectively.

Further complicating matters was having three more solid CFL draft prospects — Bishop's receivers Steven Turner (Chicago Bears), Shawn Gore (Green Bay Packers) and Wilfrid Laurier defensive end Chima Ihekwoaba (Detroit Lions) — all committed to NFL mini-camps. Another, Concordia linebacker Cory Greenwood, could be headed to the Kansas City Chief's mini-camp as well.

These developments create no shortage of uncertainty regarding when the NFL-bound players might be available to play in Canada. What's more, CFL teams that gave the players a first-round grade now must decide whether to stick to their guns or take a flyer and gamble they'll still be on the board in the later rounds.

A factor working in Barker's favour is his team has three early selections, giving it the luxury of, say, using two to take players who could help the Argos immediately while using the other on a future prospect.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Panthers trade Harris to Bears

NFL The Carolina Panthers traded starting strong safety Chris Harris to the Chicago Bears yesterday, continuing their off-season roster overhaul.

The Panthers get reserve linebacker Jamar Williams in the deal, while Harris returns to Chicago less than three years after he was traded to Carolina.

Harris was deemed expendable after he struggled some in 2009 and Carolina added depth at safety.

He joins starters Jake Delhomme, Brad Hoover, Muhsin Muhammad, Damione Lewis, Maake Kemoeatu and Na'il Diggs who have moved on because of Carolina's youth movement. The Panthers also let Pro Bowl defensive end Julius Peppers leave in free agency.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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More than $8 million for University of Guelph Barcode of Life Project
The Ontario government announced last week an $8.1 million investment in the University of Guelph-based International Barcode of Life project, the largest biodiversity genomics project in the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Retaining international students

This week the Ontario government announced it intends to introduce amendments to the Post-Secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act that would, if passed, allow the province to better protect students and safeguard the quality of higher education in Ontario. The amendments would strengthen the government's ability to shut down unauthorized education organizations and prevent them for taking advantage of foreign and Ontario students. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The good boss: Not out of reach

Knowledge, being a good person key to successful management: Author

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Nice guys finish last? Not anymore. There's a misconception in the world of commerce and business that in order to be a good manager, people must shed affable behaviour; become immovable, stern and domineering.

Yet as Dean Gualco, 20-year Human Resources manager for the city of Lodi, N. J., and author of The Good Manager: A Guide for the Twenty-First Century Manager (iUniverse) notes, those characteristics that encapsulate decent individuals personally are actually the exact same traits executives should embrace.

"The most important attribute that will most likely determine your success or failure as a manager is the ability to be a good person, one who is incredibly kind-hearted, controls their most destructive human emotions, tells the truth, does what's right and always looks for the good along the road of life," he asserts. "If you want employees to be decent and honourable, you must be decent and honourable. It is too often missing in a person and a manager."

According to the book, The Good Manager, the keys to being a good manager are: Like what you do, be knowledgeable, possess organizational abilities, work hard, make work fun and be a good person.

"The most important attribute that will most likely determine your success or failure as a manager is the ability to be a good person."
HR manager Dean Gualco

Sounds simple, doesn't it? Well, it is. As The Good Manager illustrates, from administrators hoping to cast off a heavy-handed image to those avoiding it entirely, in the pursuit of altruism, one doesn't require decades of experience and a degree in organizational management.

Instead, respected leaders need only focus on six basic principles common to the most effective managers: Like what you do, be knowledgeable about your job/industry, possess solid organizational abilities, work hard, make work fun and, most importantly, be a good person.

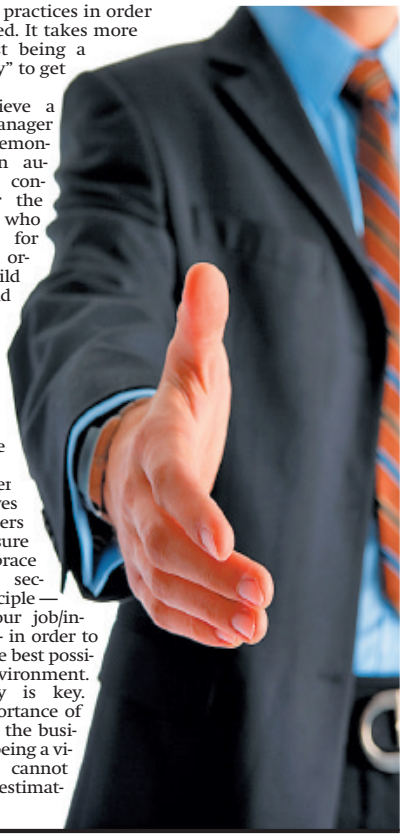
When coupled with a genuine interest in employees, Gualco believes his process benefits not only current and future managers but also staff who seek a better understanding/appreciation for their directors. As a bonus, he notes that the merits of strong leadership tactics also extend into one's personal life.

"(These fundamentals) motivate people along the intellectual and moral spectrum from self-interest to human interest, negativity to positivity, darkness to enlightenment, hate to friendship and from evil to good," he declares.

However, Gualco's vision holds up well, yet scholastic analysis prompts a strong caveat from Lisa Guglielmi, MEd, CHRP Professor for Seneca College's Centre for Human Resources and Coordinator of their Human Resources Strategy And Technology Degree.

Agreeing with his overall goal of improving employee/managerial relationships via a set of criterion, she stresses the need for deep understanding of business practices in order to succeed. It takes more than just being a "nice guy" to get ahead.

"I believe a good manager must demonstrate an authentic concern for the people who work for them in order to build trust and move people to action," she notes, imploring those looking to better themselves as leaders to ensure they embrace Gualco's second principle — know your job/industry — in order to create the best possible environment. "Integrity is key. The importance of knowing the business, of being a visionary cannot be underestimated."



Workology in brief

NAIT ACADEMIC STAFF FILE GRIEVANCE OVER PROGRAM SUSPENSION PROPOSAL The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology's academic staff association has voted to file a grievance against the school's president and his executive team over the proposal to suspend 13 programs, which was later rejected by NAIT's academic council and referred to a joint staff, student, and administration committee. The association's president says the lack of consultation cause a major crack in a relationship that had been co-operative for years. "We have just lost so much trust and belief between us and the main office." The association wants a promise that such big decisions will not be sprung on them again.
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Manitoba kicks off $150-million Project Domino
This week marked the start of Project Domino, the largest and most ambitious redevelopment project in the University of Manitoba's history, with a groundbreaking ceremony for the new student residence building. METRO NEWS SERVICES

How the top employers do it

After naming the best places to work in Canada, Great Places to Work tells us why

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

A new poll reveals the top places to work in Canada, but do Coldplay concerts and tree-planting days really boost a company's bottom line?

Jen Wetherow is the director of Great Place to Work Canada. She says the company's list measures credibility, respect, fairness, pride and camaraderie.

"When you work with your people in a way that makes your employees happier, you end up with happier clients and stakeholders,'" she says.

Anyone can nominate a firm and GPTW then invites the workplaces to participate. A private survey is then sent to employees. The answers to this "trust index" account for two-thirds of a company's score. The other third comes a GPTW "culture audit" of the company's HR policies on things like maternity leave and same-sex partner rights.

"Leaders have to lead to set directions, values and priorities, but then everyone on the team has to contribute."
Environics President Bruce MacLellan

Bruce MacLellan is president of Environics, which came in first this year. The public relations firm is known for taking staff to Coldplay concerts and the "mandatory" vacations it pays for when staff reach milestone years.

He says getting poster slogans off the walls and into real life takes work. He likens it to building a hockey team over several years.

"Leaders have to lead to set directions, values and priorities, but then everyone on the team has to contribute," he says.

When MacLellan leaves early for family reasons, he lets his staff know, thereby setting the tone for a healthy work-life balance. Environics had a mini baby boom last year, creating overlapping maternity leaves that were hard to handle. It responded by improving its flex hours and guaranteeing staff a daycare spot.

"If we see people here past 6 o'clock for more than a couple of nights in a row, we see that as a problem," MacLellan says.

Peter Jeewan is CEO of the Lannick Group of Companies, a recruiting firm in Ontario that made GPTW's top 75. He says his company generates money solely out of its human resources, so creating a great place to work is a pragmatic part of attracting and retaining high-caliber staff.

That means regular contact with staff. While Lannick doesn't go the Coldplay route, it does sponsor the Heart and Stroke Foundation and give employees the option of spending a day a year planting trees on the Toronto islands.

"Our employees, we feel, are very well rewarded financially," he says. "We try to focus on giving back to the community."

VINCE BUCCI/GETTY IMAGES

One of the things that earned Environics the the top spot on Great Place to Work Canada's list, was taking staff to Coldplay concerts.

Check out the list at Greatplace towork.ca

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UFV begins construction of new Chilliwack campus
Construction is underway at the former military engineering school at CFB Chilliwack where the University of the Fraser Valley is building a new campus. The campus plan includes an Aboriginal longhouse, a student "town hall," and an indoor courtyard. METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Kitchen sink' approach often fails with contracts

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

"The virtuous man is never a novice in worldly things."
MARCUS VALERIUS MARTIALIS

Demotions and changed responsibilities in your job can amount to constructive dismissal; an employee could then resign and sue.

Employers often take a kitchen sink approach to drafting employment contracts. They bargain for excessive protection, no matter how junior or administrative the employee. However, in seeking such protection, they sometimes get none at all.

Probationary periods:

There is no implied right to a probationary period. That is, unless a contract provides for it, it simply does not exist. Even having been dealt such an easy hand, many employers still get this wrong. It is not enough to refer to an employee as probationary. The contract must state that the employee can be fired for any reason, without pay or notice, during the probationary period. Otherwise, don't refer to a probationary period at all.

Severance provisions:

The courts still permit employers to pay dismissed employees less than what is fair. If a contract clearly permits termination upon payment of only statutory requirements, there is no right to severance, no matter how long or meritorious the employee's tenure. There is only a right to get what the contract says. However, so many of these clauses are unenforceable because of how they were drafted.

Constructive dismissal:

Pay cuts, demotions, changed responsibilities or changed geographic location can amount to a dismissal, unless a contract says otherwise. But to protect an employer against a constructive dismissal suit, the contract must provide that these "changes" have been contemplated and were specifically accepted by the employee. Many contracts don't, and an employee who is upset at the prospects of a revised job can suddenly resign and then sue.

Resignation:

If an employee who has resigned with notice is asked to leave immediately, the employee is generally entitled to pay for the remaining period of notice given. While most contracts set the period of advance notice required, few provide that if the employee is then asked to immediately leave, he or she will not be entitled to further payment.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

Kwantlen receives $2.5 million donation

B.C. philanthropist Irving Barber announced yesterday a $2.5 million gift to Kwantlen Polytechnic University — the largest donation in the school's history — to help students overcome obstacles and complete their post-secondary education. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Our speakers atop the world

Canadian youth are among the best debaters and public speakers in the world. It's a resolution that even they would be hard-pressed to argue against.

The point has been proven time and again in the past 23 years as high school students from across the country distinguish themselves through their oratory in international competitions.

The latest proof came last week in Lithuania, where Canadians claimed the top three rankings in the World Individual Debate and Public Speaking Championships. Two other Canadians also managed to finish in the top 10 of the 100-member field.

Canada's collective achievements came as no surprise to veterans of the public speaking circuit, but newly crowned champion Zeenia Framroze of Toronto was shocked by her individual success.

The 16-year-old student at Branksome Hall has only spent two years as an active participant in competitive speaking.

Framroze credits strong coaching and preparation for her win, along with the nervous energy that tends to take over before each performance. One less conventional aid also proved empowering during the debate portion of the competition, an area in which she said she tends to lack confidence.

"The No. 1 thing that helped is that I wore glasses, it actually makes me feel more intelligent."
Top speaker Zeenia Framroze

"The No. 1 thing that helped is that I wore glasses," she said with a laugh during a telephone interview. "It actually makes me feel more intelligent."

At the recent world individuals successful participants must deliver an 11-minute prepared speech to excel in the "persuasive" category, showcase their ability to deliver off-the-cuff remarks in "impromptu speaking," sway judges with their argumentative powers in the "debate" component and tap into their dramatic skills to deliver a stirring "interpretive reading."

Framroze claimed the overall championship by being among the top participants in all four categories.

Versatility also proved an asset for second-place finisher Adam Kovacs-Litman of Toronto.

The 18-year-old, though well-versed in debate, was new to public speaking and was a first-time competitor at the World Individuals.

He went on to place third in the debate and persuasive speaking categories and took top honours in interpretive reading, a discipline he said he never used to respect.

"I figured anyone can read a book, but it's more than that," he said. "It's more dramatic than just reading. You get graded on how you change your voice, your hand gestures and facial expressions. It's more acting than anything else."

Competitive public speaking allows a great deal of latitude for individual styles and preferences.

Kovacs-Litman, for instance, prefers to add humour to his speeches to keep the tone from becoming too serious. He has no formal coaching and does not agonize too much about preparation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zeenia Framroze, 16, of Toronto, holds her trophy for top honours at the 2010 World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship in Vilnius, Lithuania, earlier this month.

Both teachers and genetics aid in student reading ability

EDUCATION Genetics play the biggest role in determining how fast a child learns to read, but a good teacher can make a measurable difference as well, according to a study released recently.

Florida State University used twins assigned to different classrooms to develop the conclusions.

Researchers studied more than 550 first- and second-grade classrooms with at least one identical twin and more than 1,000 classes with at least one fraternal twin.

Among the identical twins, 42 pairs out of 280 pairs showed significant differences in reading improvement during the year studied, Taylor said. In each case, the teachers also had significantly different quality scores. Twins with similarly good teachers got similar scores.

"If you have identical twins, they should do very similarly in school," Taylor noted.

The study published in the journal Science was paid for by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Research aims for steering with eyes
Researchers at a university in Berlin have developed software which allows a driver to steer a car with his eyes. A team from Freie Universität's Artificial Intelligence Group demonstrated the system, installed in a Dodge Grand Caravan named the Spirit of Berlin. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

The ultimate prize
The Tesla Roadster was offered as a prize on the Earth Day edition of The Price Is Right. The eco-friendly sports car was the most expensive giveaway ever on the TV show. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ford shows Super power

The all-new 2011 Super Duty a solid pickup with a green heart

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

The 2011 Ford Super Duty

Sometimes big just isn't big enough. Following the redesign of its F-150 pick-up truck, Ford now unveils the all-new 2011 Super Duty, with new diesel and gasoline engines that deliver double-digit mileage improvement.

The Super Duty comes as the F-250 and F-350 pickup; in pickup or chassis cab as the F-450; and as the chassis-cab-only F-550.

The new 6.2-litre gasoline engine produces 385 horsepower and 405 lb-ft of torque, versus the 300/365 of the outgoing 5.4-litre V8. The big news is the 6.7-litre Power Stroke turbodiesel, at 390 horses and a house-pulling 735 lb-ft of twist. That's 85 lb-ft more than the previous 6.4-litre diesel, although General Motors has recently announced that its upcoming all-new diesel will make a segment-topping 765 lb-ft of torque.

The new Power Stroke is also Ford's first North American diesel designed and built in-house, following an acrimonious divorce from previous engine supplier International.

Trucks this big are exempt from government fuel ratings, but Ford claims an improvement of 18 per cent better on diesel, and 15 per cent improvement on gasoline versus the old engines.

Using the vehicle's trip computer, and carrying four people and a 1,000-lb load, my diesel F-350 single-rear-wheel test truck registered the equivalent of 8.1 L/100 km (35 mpg) in mostly highway driving.

The fuel savings should help offset the diesel's hefty premium of $9,950. Equipped with gasoline engines, and available in Regular, SuperCab and SuperCrew, the Super Duty's starting prices range from $35,499 for a base Regular cab, to a high of $59,599, which gets you the F-450 dual-wheel SuperCrew.

2011 Ford Super Duty

Type: Pickup truck
Price: from $35,499
Engine: 6.2L gasoline /6.7L diesel
HP: 385/390

Highlights

- Big improvements in fuel economy
- Big-car smoothness

The diesel is so quiet that it sounds like a gasoline engine, and the truck rides with big-car smoothness, even when there's no load in the bed. The days of trucks that rattle and bounce over every little bump in the road are over.

Towing enhancements include trailer sway control, integrated brake controller, a diesel engine brake, and hill start assist. Conventional towing maxes at 7,257 kg (16,000 lbs), while fifth-wheel goes up to 11,067 kg (24,400 lbs); a factory-installed optional fifth wheel/gooseneck package adds an additional crossmember, laser-cut holes for the hitch, and a harness plug inside the bed.

A new optional driver information screen even keeps mileage records on various trailers entered in its memory.

The heavy-duty segment is small but vital, and buyers are looking for ability and economy.

With this new truck, Ford is coming to the job site with both.

VW Touareg

VW brings hybrid Touareg

NEW MODEL Volkswagen has announced the second generation Touareg showcasing the brand's first-ever hybrid.

Taking the Touareg to the forefront of its class are three available engines to suit a variety of different drivers: A V6 FSI gasoline engine, a V6 TDI Clean Diesel engine, and a V6 TSI gasoline hybrid engine.

With the hybrid model, a 3.0-litre supercharged, direct injection V6 gasoline engine is paired with a special electric motor that reduces fuel consumption and CO2 emissions by about 40 per cent.

An eight-speed automatic transmission (the first of its kind in an SUV) keeps power always available while helping the Touareg Hybrid achieve approximately 25 and 21 mpg during highway and city driving respectively.

A special clutch can disengage the transmission from the engine when the engine is not powering the Touareg, allowing it to coast forward emission free to further aid in fuel savings. FROM CARGUIDE

Automakers got designs on China

AUTO SHOW Nissan's Teana sedan has a full-size back seat, conservative looks and a reasonable price — just the thing for a Chinese entrepreneur with a family.

That Chinese buyer is why the car exists. Nissan says the Teana, though also sold in Japan and other countries, was created with China in mind — one of a growing number of models designed by global automakers for the world's biggest car market.

"The Teana is a Chinese product," said Nissan Motor Co.'s CEO, Carlos Ghosn, at the Beijing auto show. "Without any doubt, the Chinese consumer now is becoming a big target for a lot of products that we are developing."

China's car buyers have become an important force in the design decisions of automakers from Nissan to General Motors Co. to Volkswagen AG. Their influence is starting to be seen in vehicles sold worldwide.

The reason is obvious: China's auto market surged past the United States last year to become No. 1 at a time when sales elsewhere are so weak that major brands make most of their global profit in China.

"From volume cars to luxury cars, we can see that all carmakers are trying to design cars to fit Chinese tastes."
Analyst John Zeng

"From volume cars to luxury cars, we can see that all carmakers are trying to design cars to fit Chinese tastes," said John Zeng, an analyst for IHS Global Insight.

China's growing influence echoes defining periods of expansion in the industry's history — from Europe to Detroit a century ago and the rise of Japan since the 1970s.

GM was a pioneer in designing for the Chinese market. Its Cadillac unit created its 2008 CTS for China, giving it a bigger back seat for Chinese buyers who sit in back while their chauffeur drives. That model was sold worldwide, so Cadillac customers everywhere got the added legroom.

Other producers are following. Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz debuted an extended E-class sedan for China at the Beijing auto show. Ford Motor Co.'s Volvo Cars and Volkswagen AG's Audi have created Chinese models with bigger back seats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Nissan Teana on display at the Beijing auto show.

Tony Stark and Audi throw challenge

Audi has announced that it is launching a social media competition called The Tony Stark Innovation Challenge. Beginning April 28, consumers can submit two-minute videos that showcase their ideas for better living through the use of technology. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The station wagon rises again

Coolness can swing in another direction in a moment's notice. One day you're swaggering around in acid-wash jeans and big hair, happily playing air guitar to Slayer, then suddenly, a couple of decades later, people start avoiding you at parties.

But true coolness cannot be denied. Don't know if you noticed, but acid jeans have made a mild comeback, and so has the station wagon.

For a lot of years, the station wagon was the only vehicle option for larger families. Then came the minivan, the SUV, and the crossover, and various experiments and presto! The station wagon becomes so last century, which is when it was actually invented.

The term dates from the era of rail travel. The vehicles hired to pick up and drop off people needed extra room at the back for luggage. Individual operators modified their sedans accordingly, and later, so did the automakers. This type of vehicle became the "wagon" that toiled around the "station."

Fuelling the station wagon's current swing back to coolness is the arrival of some really slick high-end models — like Audi A6 Avant and Cadillac CTS Wagon. Sporty, high-end station wagons have always had a small, dedicated following, but recently they're also welcoming buyers defecting from overly ostentatious SUVs and crossovers.

Paul Dineen, CTS marketing manager for Canada, told us the Sport Wagon gives Cadillac "a fresh product message" and "laid the groundwork for future CTS models." Those future models would be the CTS Coupe, and a higher-octane version of wagon, the latter just debuting at the recent New York auto show. Like the CTS-V sedan, the CTS-V wagon will pack a 6.2-litre supercharged V8, good for 556 horsepower, and can be ordered with a 6-speed manual transmission. Now that's a wagon!

Dineen anticipates wagons to be eight to 10 per cent of the mid luxury segment.

Hyundai Canada has seen a 20 per cent jump in sales for its Elantra Touring.

My friend Bob recently picked up a 2003 BMW 325i Touring. Like other devotees of sporty wagons, he points to the lower centre of gravity and inherent sportiness these vehicles offer over taller, heavier alternatives.

He puts it this way: "You can have fun driving it to Home Depot, and still come back with a load of building supplies."

There's also some new and cool wagon action at the lower end of the market, though when it comes to these shorter cars, the definition gets murky, whether they are a traditional station wagon or a "squared off" five-door hatch. At any rate, my current faves in the compact segment are Mini Clubman, Volkswagen Golf Wagon, and Hyundai Elantra Touring.

The Elantra Touring was styled in Europe, and exhibits some of the flair of the more expensive wagons. Hyundai Canada's VP of marketing, John Vermine, notes sales of Touring is up 20 per cent over last year (when it was first introduced).

He noted also that many customers "come into our dealerships to look at the Elantra sedan, and leave with the Elantra Touring."

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Hitch you wagon!

Here are some affordable wagons available in Canada:

- Hyundai Elantra Touring $14,999.
- Volkswagen Golf Wagon $22,675.
- Volkswagen Passat Wagon $29,995.
- Volvo V50 $30,495.
- Audi A3 $32,300.
- Cadillac CTS SportWagon $44,325.

Porsche prices 2011 lineup

MODEL Porsche Canada has announced pricing for the 2011 model year Cayenne, Panamera and 911 Turbo S.

The all-new Cayenne range starts at $58,200.

Larger, better-performing and up to 23 per cent more fuel efficient than the 2010 models, the next-generation Cayenne goes on sale in July in Cayenne S and Cayenne Turbo forms, with Cayenne and Cayenne S Hybrid following in the fall. Pricing for the V6-powered Cayenne starts at $58,200, 400 hp Cayenne S is $76,000, Cayenne S Hybrid is $80,800 and the 500 hp Cayenne Turbo is $123,900.

For 2011, the Panamera lineup grows with the addition of two V6-powered models, Panamera and Panamera 4. Powered by a 300 hp, Porsche-designed 90-degree V6, Panamera ($88,000) and Panamera 4 ($92,800) both feature Porsche's PDK double-clutch gearbox, new-design 18-inch alloy wheels, bi-xenon headlights and navigation system with touch-screen interface as part of a long list of standard features.

Dream cars

The V8-powered Panamera S ($115,100), Panamera 4S ($120,300) and 500 hp Panamera Turbo ($155,000) are priced at the same level as their 2010 equivalents, despite the inclusion of Bluetooth integration, Universal Audio Interface and floor mats as standard equipment for 2011.

New for 2011, the 911 Turbo S, the ultimate everyday Porsche sports car, is priced at $200,000 ($213,200 for the cabriolet). Even more extreme and better-equipped than the 911 Turbo, it features a more-powerful 530 hp engine, standard PDK double-clutch gearbox, ceramic brakes, centre-locking RS Spyder wheels, adaptive sport seats, six-disc CD/DVD changer and other enhancements as standard equipment.

FROM CARGUIDE

Porsche Canada has announced pricing for 2011 Cayenne, Panamera and 911 Turbo S.

Good news for passenger vehicles
Passenger vehicle sales are expected to increase by 55 per cent over the next five years, according to a new report by J.D. Power and Associates. Sales of passenger cars, SUVs and minivans are forecast to rise from 8.7 million units in 2009 to 13.55 million in 2015. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Frugality is Smart way

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2005 to 2006 Smart fortwo
VEHICLE TYPE: Two-seat coupe hatchback
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $7,000 to $13,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The sales success of the Smart fortwo surprised even the folks at Mercedes Benz — the German automaker who owns the Smart brand. After long wait times and the initial market flood of the "smartie," it quickly went on to become a popular and highly-celebrated machine in many circles.

Ideal for folks in crowded locales looking for a small, nimble and very fuel efficient car, the fortwo packed a tiny diesel engine, tiny body and an instantly recognizable look.

Smart didn't build fortwo for feats of performance or luxury, though it offered tremendously efficient two-person travel to thousands of Canadian shoppers. Even those not residing in busy cities took a liking to the fortwo, likely because of its minimalist approach to mobility and near-nil fuel costs.

The first generation fortwo was on sale in Canada from 2005 to 2007 inclusive, and came as either a hardtop coupe or a cabriolet with a retractable roof. Three trim levels were available, ranging from the basic Pure to the mid-range Pulse to the top-line Passion.

Second Gear

The first-generation Smart fortwo's popularity surprised even folks at Mercedes Benz.

Features included all of the staples — including power steering, a CD player, air conditioning and all mandatory power accessories. Traction and stability control were fitted too, as were antilock brakes and side airbags.

Powering all first-generation fortwo models was an 800cc turbodiesel engine with 40 horsepower and 73 lb.-ft of torque. A six-speed automatic with manual mode was standard, though many owners say some practice with the gearboxes manual-mode is required for smooth operation.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: Mainly, fortwo owners say they love their vehicle's fuel economy, ease of parking, ease of moving in tight spaces and decent build quality. Styling and surprisingly fun-to-drive dynamics are also appreciated.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: The biggest complaint found amongst existing first-generation fortwo owners deals with a jerky, awkward and unrefined transmission. Other drivers wished for cruise control, better arm rests, and just a touch more power.

COMMON ISSUES: On a test-drive, be sure to check for proper operation of the air conditioning system, and note any check engine lights which could indicate a problem with one of several sensors or emissions system valves. Be sure to check for moisture or mold in the footwell area too. If you notice any, it's probably the result of a failed rubber seal allowing water into the car.

Be sure to determine the condition of the turbocharger and intercooler on the model you're considering — as these weren't entirely trouble-free.

Repairing your fortwo at its dealer is a pricey endeavour, as Smart drivers pay Mercedes-Benz labour rates that can exceed $100/hr. As such, ensure the model you're considering isn't concealing any potentially-expensive issues under its skin. If you're unsure of the vehicles history, a pre-purchase inspection is strongly advised.

THE VERDICT: A well-priced, mechanically sound used fortwo should put owners happily on their way to the world of frugal motoring.

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Forte picks top safety rating

The 2010 Kia Forte has earned a Top Safety Pick designation from the U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). It is the third model from Hyundai/Kia to earn the top rating, following the Kia Soul and Hyundai Sonata. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Pedestrians? There's a Volvo for that

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

The introduction of Volvo's all-new XC60 also marked the launch of City Safety. The system brings the car to a complete halt when driving at low speeds if it detects a large object in front, such as a car that's stopped ahead.

To that, Volvo now adds a feature that can detect pedestrians, both those who have stepped in front of the car, and those who may be about to do so. Its first application is on the all-new Volvo S60.

Driving Force

The all-new Volvo S60 can detect pedestrians and direct your car to apply the brakes if you are not paying attention.

"It uses radar and a camera to monitor not only what you have in front of your car, which is usually another vehicle, but it also looks wide, so it can see at the side of the road where you usually have pedestrians," says Thomas Broberg, senior technical adviser for safety for Volvo Cars.

"The car has 'eyes.' What's new, compared to the previous generation, is that it not only looks far ahead, but will also look closer and wider."

The car uses radar to identify objects on the side of the road; when it does, the camera steps in. It's trained to recognize human shapes such as heads, arms and legs. If the object is indeed a person, the car issues an audible warning and displays a red light in the windshield ahead of the driver. If the driver doesn't react and the collision is imminent, the car comes to a full stop. The system works at speeds up to 35 km/h.

Designing it wasn't easy. "We've been driving in city environments with the technology for a couple of years now, recording what the system would see," Broberg says. "We've had people walking in front of the car with different types of clothing; we've collected data in major cities like London and Paris. During the development period, we had to adjust it so that what the camera sees is really a pedestrian and the car takes the right action, so that it doesn't identify something else. You don't want your car to brake every time it sees a mailbox."

"We had to adjust (the technology) so that what the camera sees is really a pedestrian ... You don't want your car to brake every time it sees a mailbox."
Volvo safety specialist Thomas Broberg

The system only warns and stops when a collision with a pedestrian appears imminent: it calculates the predicted path of the pedestrian in relation to the path of the car and its speed.

"Even if it recognizes all the pedestrians around the car, it will not do anything until it realizes that there is a risk of a collision," Broberg says. "The easy part is making the car brake itself. The hard part is making sure it doesn't brake when it isn't supposed to."

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2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown.[§]

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Wise customers read the fine print: *NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. This contest is open to Ontario residents over the age of 21, except employees in the advertising, marketing and sales department of Chrysler Canada Inc., employees of Chrysler Canada's retailers, agencies and fleet customers and persons with whom such employees are domiciled with or their family members. Entrants who purchase/lease or test drive a new 2010 vehicle at a participating Ontario Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram retailer between April 21st and April 30th, will receive a unique PIN to be entered online at www.spintowinapril.ca. There are twenty-one (21) trips for two (2) available to be won, consisting of flight and hotel accommodations, based on double occupancy. Dates of travel are between July 8, 2010 and December 15, 2010. If trips are not taken within the timeframe, Grand Prize will be forfeited. A random draw will take place on or about May 10th, 2010 in Oakville, Ontario. Odds of winning depend on total number of eligible entries received. Winner and companion must have valid passports three (3) weeks before date of travel. Winners must correctly answer a skill-testing question and sign a declaration/release. Complete details, including No Purchase method of entry, at www.spintowinapril.ca. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change without notice. See participating retailer for complete details and conditions. ∞Save the Freight discount offer applies on up to 3,500 2010 Grand Caravan SE Plus and SXT models offered through Ontario Dealers. Chrysler Canada will waive the $1,400 freight charge. While supplies last. See dealers for details. •$19,999 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24P) only and includes $7,500 Consumer Cash Discount and $500 Bonus Cash Offer. $19,999 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22P) only and includes $750 Consumer Cash Discount and $500 Bonus Cash Offer. See participating retailer for complete details. Prices include freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Prices exclude licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2009/2010 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-retailer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your retailer for complete details. **Bonus Cash is offered on all new and unused 2010 vehicles except Dodge Challenger, Dodge Caliber CVP and Caliber SE PLUS and Sprinter models. Bonus Cash is a manufacturer-to-retailer incentive which will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and GMAC on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Canada Value Package and Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Example: 2010 Dodge Journey (22P) with a Purchase Price of $19,999, financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $555.53; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $19,999. Price includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fees. Price excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. §2010 Dodge Journey SXT/2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount/Bonus Cash Offer: $25,795/$32,795. Prices include freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fees. Prices exclude licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. ¤Based on 2010 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ‡Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) scoring system for 2010 model year Dodge Grand Caravan and Journey. ^Based on January through December 2009 R.L. Polk sales total registrations. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license.*

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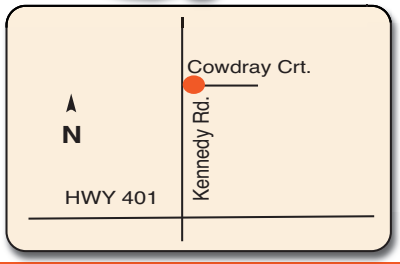

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Microsoft shows Ford the energy
Ford and Microsoft Corp. are teaming up to implement the Microsoft Hohm energy management application for Ford's electric vehicles. Ford is the first automaker announcing the use of Hohm, starting with the Focus Electric next year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Peck loves the rock 'n' roll Vibe

MyDrive
Heather Buchan
metronews.ca/mydrive

Name: Erica Peck

Who she is: A 23-year-old singer and actress currently starring in The Wedding Singer at Stage West. Peck previously starred as Scaramouche in the hit musical We Will Rock You as well as in The Boys in the Photograph.

What she drives: A 2005 bright red Pontiac Vibe.

Why the Vibe? It's got good pick-up. It gets me places fast and I can zip in and out.

Actress Erica Peck

I'm a responsible driver, but I also have a habit of leaving late, so it has an attentive gas pedal, which I need (laughs).

To be honest, I like a car that turns on and gets me there. I'm not too caught up in the technicalities.

What's your car's best feature? I have to say I love the stereo. It's great and that's super important for someone like me. I spend half my time listening to really loud rock 'n roll and the other half of my time singing really loud rock 'n roll.

What would we find in your trunk right now? A whole bunch of vintage clothing — shoes and purses and all things old and wonderful. I have a vintage clothing business that I run on the side.

And there's a can of spray paint rolling around back there, but I'm not sure what that's about.

Have you taken any road trips? I love road tripping. I'm definitely somebody who asks friends to go shopping in Buffalo, then just hit the highway and just drive there. I love driving, I love listening to music in the car.

It's my warm up before a show, I do all my vocal warm-ups in the car before a show. Usually my road trips involve either shopping or camping and beaching.

If money was no object, what car would you buy? I'd buy two cars because my boyfriend doesn't have one and he needs a car. I think for myself, I would buy a PT Cruiser convertible.

My parents used to have one and I drove it all the time and I loved it. I just think they're so cool and have tons of personality. So I'd buy two matching PT Cruisers in black and electric purple.

Erica Peck drives a 2005 Pontiac Vibe similar to this one.

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at Homemakers, Canadian Living, Canadian House & Home and, most recently, Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

Maybe it's time to tighten your belt

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

Does your car squeal like an aggravated pig when you start its engine? Does turning your steering wheel send an ear-piercing screech across entire parking lots? Are you sick of irritating other motorists with violent whining sounds from under your hood?

If your vehicle is guilty of any of the above, it's probably in need of new belts. A belt change is one of the easiest and cheapest maintenance jobs going — but countless motorists still drive around with belts that are on the verge of failure.

Rubber belts are used to transfer the rotating action of your engine's crankshaft to various accessories that are attached to the engine. These accessories, in turn, run various systems on your car.

As with any car part, belts wear out and require periodic replacement. If a belt under your hood lets go, you'll lose the functionality of all of the accessories attached to it, so pre-emptive belt changes prior to failure are very good idea — especially in the winter driving season.

To check your belts visually, pop your hood and familiarize yourself with their location. The owner's manual can be helpful here. Ensure belts aren't cracked or frayed.

If possible, give each belt a firm, solid tug, too. If a belt deflects more than about a half inch, it may be too loose — which could accelerate wear. If you like your fingers, remember to never reach into the engine compartment while the vehicle is running.

Planning to ignore the signs of belt wear? Here's a list of the common belt-driven accessories on your vehicle — and what to expect if the belt driving them fails.

Power Steering Pump: Most vehicles have a belt-driven power steering pump. This pump powers a system which does most of the physical work of turning your vehicles front wheels. This leaves drivers with minimal steering effort.

If the power steering belt lets go, the hydraulic action is lost. This can be startling and make steering all but impossible for some drivers, which could lead to an accident.

Alternator: The alternator creates the electricity needed to recharge your battery and run all the electrical accessories on your ride. If the alternator belt snaps, electricity stops being generated, and the vehicle will stop dead in its tracks a few moments later.

Water pump: The water pump is the heart of the engine's cooling system. Some vehicles have a water pump that's driven by a belt. If the belt snaps, the flow of engine coolant ceases. Overheating follows, possibly resulting in warped cylinder heads or other internal damage.

*Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit. Base MSRP of $30,515 for a new 2010 3-door Golf GTI 2.0T base model with 6-speed manual transmission, including $1,365 freight and PDI, $29 EHF, $100 air conditioning tax, if any, $5 OMVIC fee, $46 PPSA and $295 dealer administrative charge. Financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $847.64 per month. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $30,515. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. Offer ends June 30, 2010 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. 2010 3-door Golf GTI 2.0T as shown is $30,515 with options and accessories. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Visit vwdirect.ca or your Agincourt Autohaus Inc. for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Golf" and "GTI" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" is a trademark of Volkswagen AG. © 2010 Volkswagen Canada.

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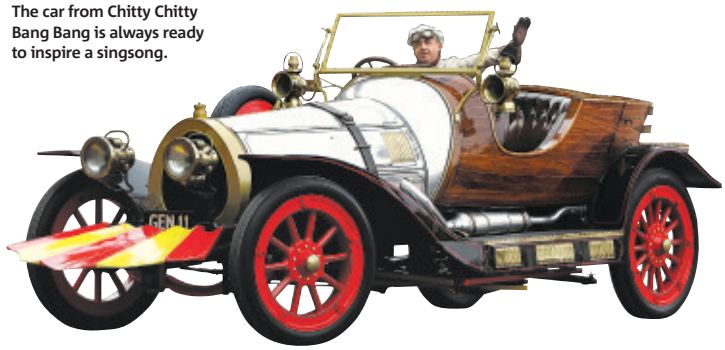


The car from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is always ready to inspire a singsong.

Those magnificent movie machines

RYAN BORROFF
Metro World News

Few car designers ever expect to find themselves dreaming up flying cars but that's what happened to Harald Belker when he turned his automotive styling talent from the car industry to the movie world.

Belker, who creates concept vehicles for the big screen, worked at Mercedes in Germany before a random meeting at a Los Angeles party led to his first Hollywood job, to dream up a new Batmobile for the movie Batman and Robin (1997).

Since then Belker has created futuristic vehicles for Steven Spielberg's Minority Report including the sporty red Lexus and the urban magnetic levitation pods, work that he says was the highlight of his career.

Other movie designs include the Lincoln Continental for Inspector Gadget (1999) and the space shuttle in Armageddon (1998) as well as vehicles for Fahrenheit 451 and The Cat in the Hat.

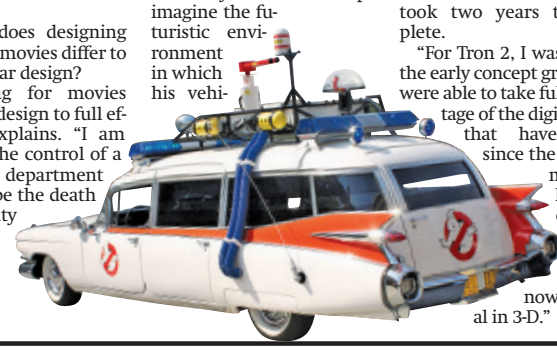
So how does designing vehicles for movies differ to real-world car design?

"Designing for movies mean I can design to full effect," he explains. "I am not under the control of a marketing department which can be the death of originality in the real world and I can stretch reality because designs don't have to really work. But I don't get much time; everything is designed one day and built the next. It is raw, which isn't always bad. What I like most is the speed of the process. It's something you have to train for, decisions are quick and so are the results."

Usually Belker helps imagine the futuristic environment in which his vehicles will be used rather that just design the vehicles themselves, which means he may be a futurist on a sci-fi movie one moment while submerging himself inside the weird world of Dr. Seuss the next.

Watch out for Belker's latest work in two films to be released this year; he designed the race cars for Iron Man 2 and the guard bikes for Tron 2, work that took two years to complete.

"For Tron 2, I was part of the early concept group. We were able to take full advantage of the digital leaps that have made since the original movie. Lightcycles and other vehicles can now look real in 3-D."



The Ghostbusters Cadillac Ectomobile

Film cars for the ages

- **Back to the Future: 1981 DeLorean DMC-12 —** In real life it may have been a truly terrible car but in the movies the DeLorean DMC-12 is the coolest vehicle ever to grace celluloid. Able to time travel at 88 mph — thanks to its lithium-powered nuclear reactor and onboard flux capacitor — Doc Brown's DeLorean was occasionally let down by a dodgy ignition.

- **Ghostbusters: 1959 Cadillac Ambulance (Ectomobile) —** It took a scary amount of tuning to turn the limo-style ambulance conversion — a rebuild of a 1959 Cadillac Miller-Meteor — and adapt it to carry the ghostbusting team's ghoul-capturing equipment, as well as transport them through New York City. Pure geek-chic ... Who you gonna call?

- **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang —** The first truly fantastical car in the movies may not be the coolest but it has certainly left us warm and fuzzy year after year. Built by eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts it has the capacity to sprout wings and a propeller and fly and was almost always able to inspire a singsong amongst its occupants.

Automotive in brief

AWARD The Audi R8, Developed jointly with quattro GmbH, was named 2010 World Performance Car at the World Car of the Year Awards ceremony at the New York Auto Show. This is the second time that the R8 has won the World Performance Car award: the V8-powered R8 took this award in 2008. This is also the third Word Performance Car award for Audi in the five years that the award has been on offer: the RS 4 was named as the 2007 World Performance Car.

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*0.9% (0.9% lease rate for up to 36/36 month term available on 2010 Rogue/Versa Hatch models. Offer is for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $.10/km. **0% purchase financing for up to 60 months available on 2010 Versa Hatch and up to 36 months on 2010 Rogue models. Representative finance example based on Selling Price of $26,332 for 2010 Rogue S FWD (W6RG10 AA00), including $1,500 freight and PDE, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire stewardship fee, and $100 air conditioning tax. License, insurance, registration, and other applicable taxes (including GST, PST and $75 tax for fuel conservation) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. †The $1,500 reduction applies to all 2010 Rogue models. ▪Model shown $28,932 Selling Price for a new 2010 Rogue SL FWD (W6SG10 AA00). CVT transmission/$18,887 Selling Price for a new 2010 Versa Hatch 1.8 SL (B5RG50 AA00). Limited time offers on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance are subject to

Novel serves as spring board to tourism

Nancy Horan's bestselling Loving Frank: A Novel has brought attention to the tourist destination in Spring Green, Wisc., which had a record attendance last season of about 28,500 people. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Biking the Grand Canyon

A bicycle rental program has been added at Grand Canyon National Park. Visitors will be able to rent bicycles starting May 1 from the visitor centre through the fall season, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Guided tours also will be offered. Park Supt. Steve Martin says bicycling is a good way for visitors to experience the park's popular South Rim, which has bicycle-friendly infrastructure. Bicyclists won't have to contend with private vehicle traffic in some areas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Jet set on federal funds

Metro shows you how to stretch you dollar to maximize your tax refund

RefundFun

DENISE SURETTE
for Metro Canada

For some people tax time means trip time.

No matter how much you received from the feds for your tax refund, you may be able to turn your cheque into a ticket out of town.

With last minute deals and online booking you can stretch you dollar far enough to make it out of the country.

$100

Tracker luggage

TRACKER LUGGAGE
REFUND: $100

Even if your refund was small, you can start scratching your travel itch by replacing your old luggage with a new, bright coloured, easy-to-spot set from Bentley.

The Tracker Revival set is made with locking telescopic handles, in-line skate wheels and comes with a ten-year warranty.

For $100 you can get a 24-inch upright, rolling suitcase and a satchel for your carry-on goodies.

METRO WORLD NEWS

London is home to some of the world's best museums.

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REFUND: $450

For a relaxing, all inclusive get-away to one of Canada's favourite Caribbean islands, book through Flight Centre and head to Varadero for the week.

Seven nights at the Mercure Playa de Oro four-star resort, flying out of Toronto, will bring you to Cuba's most expansive beach resort regions, with more than 22 km of white sand.

"If at all possible don't miss the opportunity to spend at least a day in Havana strolling through the streets and experiencing it's world renown music scene," says Allison Wallace, communications manager for Flight Centre Canada.

Cuba is a cheap, easy option to spend your refund.

Explore Atlantic City's boardwalks.

TRAVEL TO ATLANTIC CITY
REFUND: $900

In less than two hours flying time from Toronto, you and a friend could combine your tax refund dollars and try your luck in Atlantic City, N.J.

Two flights, four-star accommodation for two from Cheapflights.ca, for a Friday to Monday stay will set you and a friend back $450 each to see the sights, play some tables and explore the piers.

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If your refund was substantial you may want to treat your sweetheart to a romantic European getaway. Airfare, seven nights at a 3.5 star Ambasssadors hotel in swinging downtown London costs just under $2,000 when you fly out of Vancouver, booked with Flight Centre.

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[1]To redeem TD Points for travel purchases charged to your Card that are not booked through the TD *Visa* Travel Rewards Centre (the "Centre"), Cardholder must contact the Centre after the travel purchase has been posted to the Account and within 90 days from the transaction date of the travel purchase. The required TD Points will be redeemed from the TD Points balance available on the date TD Points are redeemed for the travel purchase, not the transaction date of the travel purchase. The amount that will be credited toward the travel purchase will be equal to the value of the TD Points redeemed. If there are insufficient TD Points available to cover the entire amount of the travel purchase, the Account will only be credited by the value of the TD Points redeemed. Any amount of the travel purchase not covered by the TD Points redeemed will remain on the Account for payment.
[2]Applies to new TD First Class Travel *Visa Infinite* Accounts only. Bonus TD Points will be awarded to the new Account upon approval. Offer may be changed, extended or withdrawn at any time without notice and cannot be combined with any other offer.
*Trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Air Canada gets worst on time rating

Southwest Airlines had the best on-time performance among major North American carriers in 2009, while Air Canada had the worst, according to Conducive Technology Corp. METRO NEWS SERVICES

More than fish and chips

British restaurant scene becoming must-visit for foodie tourists

DOMINIC MIDGLEY
Metro World News

There was a time when the UK was a great place to visit if you wanted to see wonderful art, fantastic theatre and fabulous countryside.

It was just the food that you had to eat while you were there that was likely to ruin your holiday.

Now all that has changed. Instead of being forced to make do with well-done steak and overcooked vegetables, today's tourists have a culinary treat in store.

For the British restaurant scene has been transformed by a new generation of chefs who have changed the way we eat.

The revolution was begun, perhaps predictably, by a small group of Frenchmen who arrived in the Sixties and Seventies.

These included Albert and Michel Roux — who set up Le Gavroche and The Waterside Inn respectively — and Raymond Blanc, the proprietor of Le Manoir aux Qaut' Saisons.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Britain, once known for its low culinary standards, is now topping lists around the world.

It's hard to overestimate quite how unsophisticated the British palate was in those days.

A vivid illustration of this came in 1957, when the BBC was able to fool many viewers into believing that spaghetti was grown on bushes in Switzerland by broadcasting an April Fool's edition of the current affairs program Panorama purporting to show the annual harvest in action.

Against this background the French invaders got to work, not only producing Michelin-starred cuisine but training a new generation of British chefs such as Marco Pierre White and Gordon Ramsay, who went on to spread the gospel of great cooking with high-quality seasonal ingredients.

By now, the British consumer had also grown more adventurous thanks to the package holiday boom, which took millions of Brits to Spain, France and Italy every year.

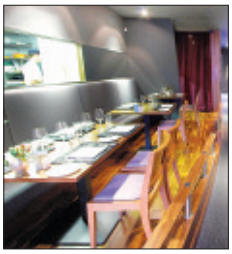
These days, the average Brit is not only familiar with spaghetti but knows their papardelle from their tortellini.

Indeed, the Brits have become so accomplished that they are exporting their expertise abroad, including, to the horror of the establishment there, to France.

The French media were recently aghast to discover that the coolest chef role model among the young was no longer Escoffier but a scruffy young Englishman called Jamie Oliver.

His books, including one called Tout le Monde Peut Cuisiner, regularly top the bestseller lists.

As Gordon Ramsay once said: "Cooked well, British cooking is as good, if not better, than any other."



U.K. fine dining is now the norm.

3 must visit restaurants

1 The Fat Duck
Chef Heston Blumenthal
Where: High Street, Bray, Berkshire
Style: molecular gastronomy
Signature dish: Sound of the sea, which is served with a soundtrack of marine noises accessed via an iPod and earphones
Rough price: $230 a head (tasting menu)

2 Fifteen
Chef Jamie Oliver (founder)
Where: 15 Westland Place, London N1 7LP (Also Cornwall, Amsterdam and Melbourne)
Style: Italian Mediterranean
Signature dish: 'Brasato al Barolo' Buccleuch Estate shin of beef slow braised in red wine with sott'olio of Tropea onions, and artichokes mostarda di Cremona Rough
Price: $90 a head (evening tasting menu), $40 a head (set lunch).

3 Gordon Ramsay
Chef Clare Smyth
Where: 68 Royal Hospital Road, London
Style: French
Signature dish: Roasted loin of monkfish
Rough price: $140 a head (a la carte), $180 a head (seven-course prestige).

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Aboriginals featured in Phoenix museum
The music of aboriginals from Canada and the United States is among the highlights of a new museum in Phoenix dedicated to musical instruments from around the world, which opened this weekend. METRO NEWS SERVICES

5 family vacation destinations

Metro found the best high value, low hassle holidays

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

We've trawled the length and breadth of Europe to find some of what we think are the best value, best fun and least hassle holidays under the sun.

All prices — correct at time of going to press — are for two adults and two kids for seven nights in July. Check relevant website for updated details.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Fun for the whole family can be found at any of these spots.

1
FRANCE
Le Val de Bonnal, Jura

A great holiday park set on the banks of the Ognon in the former chateau estate. It has access to the four lakes and beaches, waterslides, and pools means this park will appeal to those who love watersports.

Accommodation is spacious from mobile homes and adventure tents. From $1,400 a three-bed mobile home.

(les-castels.com)

2
SPAIN
The Terrazas resort

The Terrazas resort is the big news on the Costa Del Sol in 2010. Pools, kids clubs, a range of sports and stunning views of the Rock of Gibraltar and coast of north Africa. The accommodation is apartment-based and of course feels very new. From $1,240 for a flat for four.

(pv-holidays.com)

3
LATVIA
Jurmala

This emerging holiday resort offers almost everything the Med can offer at a fraction of the price. There's 20 miles of decent beach, ice-creams for pennies and dinner for two comes in at well under $15. Good quality hotels, like the five-star Baltic Beach spa hotel, which offers luxury accommodation for budget prices. From around $1,700.

(balticbeach.lv)

4
UK
Butlins, Bognor Regis

Butlins used to be a bit of a joke in the UK but this resort in Britain's sunniest location has ended that. The big change is the quality.

The Ocean and Shoreline Hotels are well up to big city standard. From $1,300.

(Butlins.com)

5
MALTA
Riviera Resort & Spa

Away from the hubbub in the south of the island, this impressive hotel hugs the northern shoreline of the Maltese islands and boasts private beaches and views of the islands of Gozo and Comino.

Lovely safe sea, ample lounges, bars and restaurants and open-air terraces for mom and dad. From $2,000.

(riviera.com.mt)

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Travel Jun 11 - Jun 18/wg + taxes & fees $278

New York $179
Travel Jun 21 - Jun 28/la + taxes & fees $98

Mexico City $249
Travel Sep 6 - Sep 13/aa + taxes & fees $132

Los Angeles $349
Travel May 19 - May 26/dl + taxes & fees $125

Buenos Aires $549
Travel Sep 6 - Sep 13/mx + taxes & fees $373

Delhi $689
Travel Sep 20 - Oct 4/ay + taxes & fees $442

All-inclusive Vacations

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Bahia Principe San Juan + taxes & fees $329
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Cayo Coco 7 Nights 4-Star $365
Oasis Playa Coco + taxes & fees $213
Departs May 29/nol/c6.

Santa Lucia 7 Nights 4-Star $397
Brisas Santa Lucia + taxes & fees $213
Departs May 17/nol/c6.

Puerto Vallarta 7 Nights 4-Star $467
Royal Decameron Complex + taxes & fees $281
Departs May 27/nol/ts.

Panama 7 Nights 4-Star $495
Playa Blanca + taxes & fees $230
Departs May 12/swg/wg.

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star $567
Ocean Maya + taxes & fees $281
Departs May 30/nol/ts.

Los Cabos 7 Nights 5-Star $597
Presidente Inter Continental + taxes & fees $191
Departs Jun 5/sqv/ws.

Aruba 7 Nights 4-Star $798
Holiday Inn Sunspree + taxes & fees $248
Departs May 10/vat/ts.

Vacations

Florida Air + Car $109
+ taxes & fees $235
INCLUDES roundtrip air to Fort Lauderdale and 7-day car rental. Travel May 28 - Jun 4/vat/ts.

Niagara Falls Mother's Day
2 Nights + Activity $149‡
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INCLUDES 2 nights accom, *Maid of the Mist* tour and admission to the Skylon Tower. Travel May 8 - 10/ggv.

Orlando Harry Potter, Wizarding World
Air + 7 Nights + Passes $259◊
Champions World Resort + taxes & fees $233
INCLUDES 3-day pass to Universal Studios including the new *Wizarding World of Harry Potter.* BONUS free shuttle to Universal Studios, *Walt Disney World®* Theme Parks and Sea World. Departs Jun 18/ggv/ts.

New York Air + 2 Nights $429
Holiday Inn Manhattan 6th Ave + taxes & fees $107
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. Departs Jun 2/ggv/la.

Costa Rica Learn to Surf
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Madrid Air + 5 Nights $927
Hotel Amaral + taxes & fees $317
INCLUDES breakfast. Departs Jun 13/acv/ac.

Greece & Turkey
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Prague & Vienna
Air + 7 Nights $1359
Ibis Wenceslas Square Praha (Prague) & Hotel Delta (Vienna) + taxes & fees $324
INCLUDES train ticket, 3 nights accom in Prague and 4 nights accom in Vienna. Departs Jun 9/vat/ts.

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Ring returns in 3-D

Paramount is set to bring back J-Horror classic The Ring in 3-D, sky.com reported. While The Ring's American remake helped kickstart the Japanese remake craze there hasn't been a theatrically released U.S. Ring movie since 2005's lacklustre sequel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Blunt denial

Emily Blunt has revealed that she turned down a role in Captain America because she didn't want to commit to a franchise, femalefirst.co.uk reported.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Special highlights Charles' work

PEOPLE

Prince Charles

Prince Charles will be featured on NBC later this year in a film about his environmental work.

The network says it will show Harmony, a movie about the prince and his view that people have lost the understanding of how to live in harmony with the natural world.

Paul Telegdy, head of alternative programming, says Charles was mocked as the "tree-hugging prince" when he first started talking about these issues. Telegdy knows — he's a Brit who worked for the BBC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banking on blockbusters

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

As we move towards summer, it seems summer moves closer to us — in terms of Hollywood anyway.

In anticipation of the blockbuster season, Hollywood is increasingly frontloading the summer with its bulkiest movies. This year, studios are particularly pushing sequels, adaptations and remakes banking on recognized brands to bring bucks to the box office. Here are some of summer's most massive movies:

Iron Man 2 (May 7): The superhero blockbuster that kicked off the 2008 summer season returns and even the least comic-book savvy are getting excited to see the real man of steel.

Robin Hood (May 14): Ridley Scott re-teams with his Gladiator star Russell Crowe to re-imagine the classic story of one medieval man's quest to steal from the rich and give to the poor.

Shrek Forever After (May 21): Everyone's favourite lime-green ogre is back for a fourth flick ensuring Mike Myers will be able to make his mortgage payments for another year.

Sex and the City 2 (May 27): Carrie Bradshaw and the ladies reunite but move the glamorous party from Manhattan to Abu Dhabi. Presumably, Detroit wasn't sexy enough.

The A-Team (June 11): There are no in-betweens: Either you are giddy as a schoolgirl or gagging at the thought of this remake of the campy '80s TV show that starred master thespian Mr. T.

Karate Kid (June 11): Move over Ralph Macchio, Jaden Smith has come to town! In this remake of the 1984 classic, Will Smith's son stars as a martial arts prodigy to Jackie Chan.

Toy Story 3 (June 18): Buzz Lightyear, Woody and the rest of the toys find themselves in a day-care centre in this long-awaited third instalment to Pixar's hugely successful franchise.

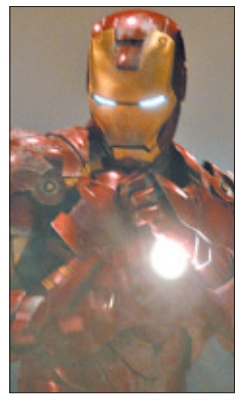
Eclipse (June 30): The third chapter in the beloved Twilight saga, this series has turned both vampires and Robert Pattinson into teen obsessions. Coincidence? I wonder.

The Last Airbender (July 2): After 2008's disappointing The Happening, M. Night Shyamalan has his work cut out for him. Perhaps this adaptation of Nickelodeon's Asian-influenced TV series is just the remedy for salvation.

Predators (July 9): A return to Arnold Schwarzenegger's 1987 thriller, this spooky sci-fi franchise gets a face-lift thanks to producer Robert Rodriguez (Sin City).

Other notables

- MacGruber (May 21)
- Prince of Persia (May 28)
- Marmaduke (June 4)
- Despicable Me (July 9)
- Salt (July 23)
- The Expendables (Aug. 13)



Sex and the City 2, above, Iron Man 2, right, and Toy Story 3, below, are among the movie sequels that Hollywood studios are pushing during this summer's blockbuster season.

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Jake Ehrenreich is the writer and star of the solo musical A Jew Grows in Brooklyn, which show the 50-year-old performer singing his way through a personal history of growing up in a Yiddish household.

Musical relays Jew's American Dream

JOHN KEILLOR
for Metro Canada

As a New York child with parents who survived the Holocaust, Jake Ehrenreich grew up wanting to feel more American.

But as a kid in a Yiddish-speaking household, he never did. Now, as the writer and star of the solo musical, A Jew Grows in Brooklyn, he gets to sing and dance his story about finding his way into the mainstream comfort zone.

"Baseball and pop music was real America to me," says Ehrenreich, by phone from New York. "I wanted to hear rock and roll, but my mother only listened to Yiddish radio."

With four backup singers and a multi-media set, Ehrenreich sings his way through a personal history. The 50-year-old performer shares his journey out of a maze of cultural anxiety. This was no easy trick. His Polish folks survived the horrors of Nazi Europe, and were even interned in a Siberian work camp before their escape.

After settling in Brooklyn, however, the memory still seemed to pursue his family. No one felt secure. In his household, the psychic trauma of war remained alive.

And it turned out that this perception can be as destructive as the reality.

"I learned that if you let stress eat you up, it will kill you," says Ehrenreich. "My sister Joanie was always fussing, and she never seemed to feel safe or satisfied. She got sick in her 40s, and then died at just 55. She never found love, though she gave so much."

To escape this post-war trauma, young Jake turned to great rock acts like Cream and the Righteous Brothers. And there he found an unexpected connection with his own Hassidic heritage.

"It turned out many of my favorite songwriters were Jewish, too. Regular, ordinary America wasn't nearly as far away as I had thought. The rock music I loved wasn't so foreign after all."

Loving the rock and pop of the '60s, Ehrenreich found himself gradually coming to accept more traditional material, too. His mother's taste for Yiddish music began to rub off on him. And, for some reason, he also fell in love with Christmas music, too.

Singing medleys sporting all this different material, Ehrenreich celebrates being grateful for what life offers right now. Pleasure is part of what keeps us alive. There's no point in fretting during a rock concert or a Brooklyn Dodgers game.

"We have a duty to find the joy inside ourselves," he says.

Opening today

- A Jew Grows in Brooklyn starts today at the Panasonic Theatre.

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NYC permits

For the first time ever, television and film productions that come from all over the world to shoot in the city will have to pay for the City Hall permits that have always been free, a major change in policy blamed on budget woes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music video comeback

After directing celebs like Gaga, director Akerlund chairs global jury

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

"There's a pressure to outdo oneself with every music video," admits the director Jonas Akerlund.

He's most well known for his long-time working relationship with Madonna. But lately, his music videos for Lady Gaga have been earning the most attention. There's Paparazzi, which features Alexander Skarsgård pushing the diva off a balcony. And let's not forget Telephone, the controversial but wildly good 10-minute blockbuster that has Beyoncé and Gaga raising hell as pop music's answer to Thelma and Louise. Akerlund — who will chair the global jury for the Metro Video Challenge — opens up about his body of work.

Q Would you say that the music video has made a comeback of sorts?

A It's funny because I kind of lost interest in them for a while because it seemed like the market didn't need music videos. We were making them and they were never shown. Young artists like Gaga and the Internet helped change the life of music videos. She brought it back to the '90s when it was fun and people watched them and actually talked about them. But it's not only Gaga, it's other videos that I've done too. Maroon 5, Rammstein, Mika, these have all been very successful videos.

Q Many media outlets claimed that your music video Telephone was based on the movie Kill Bill. Would you agree with that?

A Kill Bill was never an inspiration. The only reason why people say that is because we had the car that was used in the movie. We were meant to have a different car. But just a few days before the shoot, Quentin Tarantino offered to let us use the one from Kill Bill. The whole comparison was kind of a compliment but there's a lot more to say about that video than just the car.

Metro Challenge

• The more than 16 million Metro readers around the world are invited to enter the Metro Video Challenge. Shoot a short movie, which is voted on by readers. The winner will win a trip to any Metro city in the world. Go to metrovideochallenge.com for more info.

Q Were you surprised when the video ended up being as controversial as it was?

A You never expect that. What we knew was that we didn't care about the rules — meaning, the format and how people are going to see it and the MTV rules and the censorship rules. The fans will go online and find the video. It's funny because it has been shown all over the world. The only place where it has not been shown because of the rules is MTV America. Luckily, Gaga's management was strong enough to say f-ck it. And creatively that gave us more flexibility.

Q MTV later denied banning the video. But many viewers complained about their being too much girl-on-girl violence. Do you think that audiences are more conservative now than when you first started out?

A I didn't know MTV finally aired the video. Good for them. There is no violence against women in the video really. Especially compared to other stuff on TV. The video is provocative. And any bit of attention is good in my book. The video is a made up crazy world. I could never think being too sexual is a bad thing … I think it's up to the audience to check out what they want to see. I'm not a fan of anyone telling me what I can or cannot do.

Music video director Jonas Akerlund is well-known for his work with Madonna and Lady Gaga.

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Glee might do a Britney episode

Last Tuesday's all-Madonna episode of Glee was such a success that the series creator Ryan Murphy is considering a musical tribute to Britney Spears next, starmagazine.com reported. "I'm interested in the Britney Spears idea. I've always loved her. I'm entertaining it." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Peanuts sold for $175M

You've got a new owner, Charlie Brown.

E.W. Scripps Co. said yesterday it will sell the unit that owns the licensing rights to Snoopy, Charlie Brown and the rest of the Peanuts gang for $175 million US to Joe Boxer owner Iconix Brand Group Inc.

The sale of United Media Licensing also means Iconix has a new partnership with the family of the late Peanuts creator, Charles Schulz. They'll receive 20 per cent ownership in the unit that owns Peanuts and pay that percentage of the sale price.

United Media Licensing represents other character brands such as Dilbert and Fancy Nancy but the bulk of its licensing business comes from Peanuts.

Charles Schulz

The Peanuts gang appears everywhere — on T-shirts, greeting cards and sno-cone machines — six decades after the Minnesota native created them. The business has more than 1,200 licensing agreements and relationships with companies and retailers such as Warner Bros., Old Navy, CVS, MetLife Inc. and Hallmark Co. Some 20,000 new products are approved each year in more than 40 countries.

Scripps first brought the strip to market in 1950. By the time Schulz retired in 1999, Peanuts was in more than 2,600 papers. Schulz died in February 2000.

Iconix, formerly known as Candie's, said it expects Peanuts to generate about $75 million in annual royalty revenue and noted a pre-existing revenue share with the Schulz family, separate from the new 20 per cent arrangement. Iconix, based in New York, owns and licenses brands such as Joe Boxer, London Fog, Starter and Mudd, to retailers, wholesalers and suppliers.

The family was heartened by the sale, said Charles Schulz' son, Craig Schulz.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Southland gets another season
TNT will air another season of Southland, the Los Angeles-based police drama that the cable network picked up when it was dumped by NBC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hot Docs keeps on growing

IAN GORMLEY
for Metro Canada

Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary film festival, opens its 17th year tomorrow, screening over 160 documentaries over the following ten days. Not too shabby for a festival that started as a small, industry only event in a hotel conference room.

Hot Docs is screening the Canadian film Life With Murder.

"It was Canadian Film makers getting together for four days to screen each other's work," recalls Chris McDonald, the fest's executive director. His first year, back in 1998, was the first time international industry types were invited as well as the first time screenings were open to the public.

"We did them in Little Italy in cafes, which seemed like a good idea at the time," says McDonald. "Filmmakers don't necessarily appreciate having cappuccino machines running, phones ringing and streetcars rumbling by when their work is being screened. It was a charming and quaint idea but that was the first and last year we did that."

McDonald, the fest's first full-time employee, is now one of 20 full-timers along with the hundreds of other staff hired in the lead up to the festival. "Now we're in nine different venues and most of the time screening on seven screens simultaneously."

The growth, he says, can partly be attributed to a worldwide growth in interest in the form. "It's a global trend," he says. "Audiences are responding to non-fiction storytelling in a way that they never have before."

The festival has cast a wide net in terms of subject matter; political films like Bhutto, a bio of the former Pakistani President, and abortion rights doc 12 & Delaware are programmed alongside personal films like the Adrian Grenier directed Teenage Paparazzo, and Canadian film Life With Murder.

Hot Docs kicks off tomorrow and runs until May 9

The Toronto Documentary Forum, running simultaneous to the fest lets producers and directors pitch their films in hopes of finding financing. Secrets of the Tribe, which screened at both Sundance and Cannes was pitched there a few years ago and makes its Hot Docs debut next week.

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TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/28/10	265	353	2	TVO	Rebecca's Wild Farm		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital		Human Edge "Rough Aunties" (N)		
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares		Melrose Place "Vine"		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at Buffalo Sabres. (HDTV) (Live)						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Modern Family	Cougar Town	Modern Family	Better Off Ted	News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		American Idol		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Jacob Two Two Meets the Hooded Fang* ★★ (1999, Fantasy)				*Formula 51* ★★ (2001, Action) Samuel L. Jackson.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Old Christine	The Insider (N)	*The Lost Boys* ★★★ (1987, Horror) Jason Patric.				The Insider	Dream Car	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Old Christine	Two/Half Men	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Minute to Win It		Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: SVU		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Happy Town		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Happy Town (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me (HDTV PA)		American Idol		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Wait for God	Great Performances "Hamlet" (HDTV) Contemporary retelling of "Hamlet." (N)						
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		Fly Girls	High Society	PIX News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Top Model
	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (N)		American Greed		American Greed (N)		American Greed		Mad Money
	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at Chicago Blackhawks.			
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR Smart	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)		Pass Time	Pass Time	Pass Time
	551	542	25	YTV	That's-Weird	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	Survive This	To Be Indie	Family Biz	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Cupcake Girls	Cupcake Girls	*The Accidental Witness* (2006, Suspense)		
	570	580	29	MM	America's Best Dance Crew		disBAND	Video on Trial	VideoFlow				UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminator	Exterminator
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Il Rosso e Il Negro				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Secret Lives* (2005, Suspense) Daphne Zuniga.				Secret Diary	Pure Pwnage	Law-Order
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan Files	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		In Laws	In Laws	End/Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Nostradamus Effect		Ice Road Truckers (HDTV) (N)		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Dive Detect
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie	Hot Box	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	For Rent	Agent-Agent	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellables	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes/Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at St. Louis Cardinals. From Busch Stadium in St. Louis.						Law & Order
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Sprung* ★★ (1997, Comedy) Tisha Campbell, Rusty Cundieff.					Got Game?	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	The Hills	After	Cribs	Teen Cribs	The Hills	The City	The City	After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Dog Whisperer		Hoarders		Hoarders		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Spoiled Rotten
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Eat, Shrink	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Chopped		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		No Place Like	Open All Hours	Kingdom		Unscripted (N)	Twist of Faith	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Toopy & Binoo	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Jackals"		Missing A missing woman.		Medium "S.O.S."		Cold Case "Jackals"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Extract* ★★ (2009, Comedy) Jason Bateman.				*Pineapple Express* ★★ (2008, Comedy) Seth Rogen.				*I Love You*
	305	612	306	PIX	*The Silence of the Lambs* ★★★★ (1991, Suspense)				*Red Dragon* ★★★ (2002, Suspense) Anthony Hopkins.				*Friday the 13th*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		I Could Do	I Could Do	Deadliest Catch		Mayday		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	America's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		Pretty Wicked		Best Dressed

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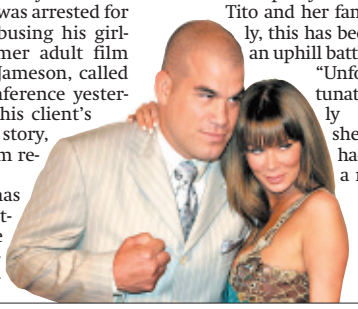
Inspiring girl to be comic book characters
Iron Man 2 actress Scarlett Johansson — who plays secret agent Natalie Romanova in the forthcoming sequel — enjoyed getting the chance to play a strong female character and hopes the film is inspirational for young girls, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Ortiz comes out fighting

TOO SOON? A lawyer for Tito Ortiz, who was arrested for allegedly abusing his girlfriend, former adult film star Jenna Jameson, called a press conference yesterday to tell his client's side of the story, EOnline.com reports.

"Jenna has been fighting a battle with OxyContin addiction for the past year. For Tito and her family, this has been an uphill battle. "Unfortunately ... she had a relapse," the mixed-martial-arts fighter's attorney said.



Jenna fired back at the father of her children, saying that his allegations are "completely false," according to TMZ. Jameson's father called 911 yesterday, after Ortiz allegedly struck his daughter. She had "visible injuries" to her arm after the incident.

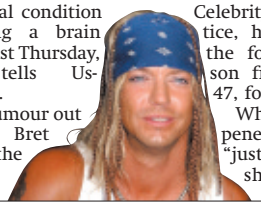
Ortiz has since been released on $25,000 US bail.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bret Micheals is still with us

SO IS THAT ICKY FEELING FROM WATCHING ROCK OF LOVE Bret Michaels continues to remain in critical condition after suffering a brain hemorrhage last Thursday, his rep tells UsMagazine.com.

"There's a rumour out there that Bret passed," says the rep. "It isn't true."



Sharon Osbourne, Michaels' costar on NBC's Celebrity Apprentice, has known the former Poison front man, 47, for 30 years. What's happened to him is "just hideous," she told UsMagazine.com Monday at the NBC Universal Summer Press Day in Pasadena, Calif.

"It's devastating, and it makes you feel all these different feelings. Your heart goes out to his family, your heart goes out to him. He's the nicest guy in the world."

MERO NEWS SERVICES

Duff isn't dashing up the aisle

SHE'S ONE CHILLED PUCK BUNNY Hilary Duff may be a crazy fan when she's cheering for her hockey-player fiancé Mike Comrie but when it comes to wedding planning, the actress is a lot more calm, people.com reports.

"She's really relaxed and wants something comfortable and great," big sister Haylie Duff said Monday at the Tribeca Film Festival premiere of the documentary Earth Made of Glass. "She's just so excited to be engaged."

Comrie, 29, who plays for the Edmonton Oilers, proposed to Hilary, 22, over Christmas in Hawaii. Four months later, she and her sister are still in the early stages of planning the nuptials.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Michael Lohan deals with his family issues

IN COURT, LIKE EVERY GOOD HOLLYWOOD FAMILY SHOULD Michael Lohan is convinced daughter Lindsay Lohan is in trouble, and his next step is to call child protection services on her over charges she's a dangerous influence for younger sister Ali Lohan, he tells Hollyscoop.

Lindsay herself is allegedly readying a restraining order against Michael. But her father isn't worried.

"I spoke to their lawyers and they told me they have no grounds to get a restraining order," he says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Home is where the heart is

HE HAS 11 DIFFERENT HOMES Jesse James is home from rehab after a month in an Arizona facility, and according to Radar Online, he was spotted without his wedding ring on.

Those close to the Monster Garage host say he knows his time is up.

"Jesse is finally admitting to himself that he blew it," a source says. "The marriage is over and he only has himself to blame."

Though they'd been staying with estranged wife Sandra Bullock while he was in treatment, James' three children returned to his Southern California home to greet him.

METRO WORLD NEWS

She's fallen and can't get up

LUCKILY SHE HAS LOTS OF BUILT-IN PADDING TO CUSHION HER FALL Amy Winehouse was hospitalized again recently after night out led to a nasty fall that caused damage to her ribs, forehead and recently augmented breasts, according to the Sun.

"She'd had a few drinks. At first she thought she had broken something, so she got her security to take her to hospital," a source says.

"The doctors were worried she might be concussed because she had a big bump on her head and a cut above her eye."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jackson splits up the kids

SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO PROTECT MY INTERESTS, I MEAN, MICHAEL'S KIDS Katherine Jackson has reportedly lost patience with some of her grandchildren, moving them out of her California home, according to TMZ.

While she has custody of late son Michael Jackson's three children, Katherine has arranged for Jacksons Jaafar, Jermajesty, Donte and Randy Jr. to be moved to a condominium owned by the family, according to the website. Sources claim the decision was prompted by Jaafar allegedly pointing a stun gun at Michael's children.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Clarification

- Yesterday Metro ran a story about Melissa Smith, one of Jesse James' alleged mistresses, but the photo with the item was not of the Melissa Smith referred to in the story. Metro apologizes for the error.

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

Today, **BILLY CORGAN** is fed up with Courtney Love, **COURTNEY LOVE** tries to play nice with Billy Corgan, and **SPENCER PRATT** isn't pleased that Lauren Conrad is returning to The Hills.

@Billy if you can't write your own songs maybe you should just be happy that you fooled someone into doing your work for you. maybe you should go somewhere nice+live off your husband's money, u know the money he made for writing all those great songs. @CourtneyLoveUK @billy all i am is nice about you so if you wanna be mean be mean i dont feel anything @spencerpratt @laurenconrad stop trying to get famous you haven't been relevant since laguna beach. You need ghost writers pretend you can spell or read.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

One hot momma

GETTIN' ALL GOOPY Gwyneth Paltrow is looking to expand her brood.

"I would love to have another child at some point. I feel very, very lucky that I have two healthy, nice ones," she tells Ellen DeGeneres.

"They're great, they're so sweet," she says of her son and daughter, Moses and Apple, with Coldplay frontman Chris Martin.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2010

Today Sunny 12° / 4°

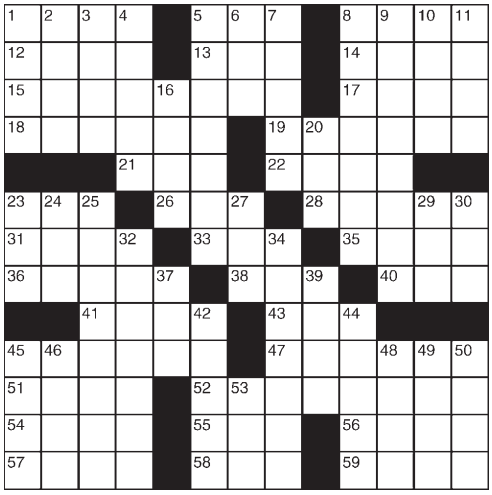
Thursday Sunny 17° / 8°

Friday Variable 21° / 14°

PROUD TO BE ONE OF CANADA'S 50 BEST MANAGED COMPANIES.

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 GI on the run
5 Shelter
8 Clarinetist Artie
12 Fill with freight
13 401(k) alternative
14 — support
15 Lunch container
17 Hindu royal
18 Minute grooves
19 Ventilating slat
21 Round Table address
22 Whirlpool
23 Crazed
26 Felon's flight
28 Preclude
31 Basis for a whodunit
33 Illumination measure
35 Highway division
36 Peak periods
38 Catty remark?
40 Workout venue
41 Sand
43 Fish eggs
45 Bribe of a sort
47 Hardly plain
51 Actress Jessica
52 Hodgepodge
54 Outerwear
55 "Ulalume" writer
56 Earthenware pot
57 Small barrels
58 In addition
59 Nourish

DOWN

1 Priestly garb
2 Imperfection
3 Stench
4 Clark's partner
5 Generous
6 Historic time
7 Two under par
8 Fruit-filled dessert
9 Boxers punch it for practice
10 Zits
11 Spinning sound
16 Hammer's target
20 Peculiar
23 Speedometer stat
24 Actress MacGraw
25 Leftovers holder
27 Silent
29 Whatever number
30 Sleep phenom
32 At each other's — (fighting)
34 Photocopied
37 Part of R.S.V.P.
39 Sported
42 Florida city
44 The — the line
45 Prepare to travel
46 Lotion additive
48 Competent
49 Story
50 "Zounds!"
53 Charged bit

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4				2		
		7	5		2	1		
1				4				9
	6	1	2		9	5	4	
	4	9	7		8	3	1	
6				8				1
		2	3		6	4		
		5				8		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

W	E	A	R	■	C	A	B	■	S	K	E	W
A	L	I	E	■	O	V	A	■	U	N	T	O
S	U	R	V	I	V	O	R	■	R	E	N	O
P	L	Y	■	D	E	W	■	B	R	E	A	D
■	■	■	S	L	Y	■	F	O	E	■	■	■
I	S	S	U	E	■	D	O	W	N	I	N	G
T	H	O	R	■	B	O	X	■	D	R	U	B
S	E	L	F	I	S	H	■	L	E	A	N	S
■	■	■	B	R	A	■	E	A	R	■	■	■
C	R	O	O	K	■	H	A	M	■	H	U	B
L	A	M	A	■	S	U	R	P	R	I	S	E
A	G	E	R	■	P	E	T	■	E	Y	E	D
M	E	N	D	■	A	S	H	■	D	A	D	S

7	3	5	2	1	4	8	9	6
6	9	1	8	5	3	4	2	7
8	4	2	7	6	9	5	1	3
4	8	9	1	3	2	7	6	5
1	6	7	5	4	8	9	3	2
5	2	3	6	9	7	1	8	4
9	7	4	3	2	1	6	5	8
2	1	6	4	8	5	3	7	9
3	5	8	9	7	6	2	4	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Lentils and Sausage

INGREDIENTS:

2 1/2 cups lower-sodium beef broth
1 cup dried lentils, sorted and rinsed
170 g smoked turkey sausage, sliced
1 large potato, peeled and cubed
1 large yellow onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp dried basil leaves
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper

METHOD:

1. In large pot, bring beef broth to boil over high heat. Stir in lentils. Lower heat and simmer, covered, for 20 minutes.

2. Add sausage, potato, onion, garlic, basil, salt and pepper. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, for 20 minutes or until lentils and potato are tender.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The way you look at the world has been changing and today's full moon will make it easier for you to accept that things have changed.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The next 24 hours will be critical for a relationship that has been going through a bad patch recently. Be honest about your feelings.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
What you are working on may be interesting but it is only a small part of the bigger picture, so raise your sights occasionally.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Today's full moon cuts across the most creative axis of your chart and will encourage you to embark on a brand new adventure.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You can learn a great deal from watching other people today, especially people you live with and work with.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
If you make an effort to talk to people today you will discover some interesting things, not only about them but also about yourself.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
If your instincts tell you to follow a certain course of action then that is what you must do. What other people think about it is of secondary importance.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Today's full moon in your sign is a powerful influence and one that has the potential to cause a great deal of disruption.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
The only reason you are worried about something is because you have no control over it. Accept that fact and stop fighting against it.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Try not to waste your time and your energy arguing with people who don't share your values. Today you will not find common ground.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
As the current full moon cuts across the home and career axis of your chart you will have to make room for both domestic and vocational aspirations.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You are a lot more sensitive than you like to admit but there will be no hiding your feelings today.

This day in history

1792: France invades the Austrian Netherlands (present day Belgium), beginning the French Revolutionary War.
1930: The first night game in organized baseball history takes place in Independence, Kan.
1945: Benito Mussolini and his mistress Clara Petacci are executed by a firing squad consisting of members of the Italian resistance movement.
1952: The United States occupation of Japan ends with the ratification of Treaty of San Francisco.
1967: Expo 67 opens to the public in Montreal.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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90 DAY DON'T PAY* & 0% FINANCING** ON SELECT 2010 MODELS**

THE ALL-NEW 2011 KIA SORENTO

Introducing the all-new 2011 Kia Sorento crossover SUV. With available 7-passenger seating, all-wheel drive, panoramic sunroof and standard Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability, the Sorento truly provides **A NEW WAY TO SEE THE WORLD.**

Sale Price From: **$23,495** Cash Purchase Price

Save up to $500

You Pay: **$25,354**† Cash Purchase Price

Includes:
Delivery & Destination $1,650
Fees $209

For informational purposes, effective rate is **5.75%**††

— OR —

Lease from **$299** Per mo. 48 mos. AT Lease APR*** **4.9%** $4,010 down payment

Sorento EX-V6 Luxury shown

Forte EX shown

HWY: 5.8 L/100KM 49 MPG CITY: 8.3 L/100KM 34 MPG

NADA Guides Car of the Year

2010 KIA FORTE

- 2.0L, 4-cyl., 156 HP, or available 2.4L, 4-cyl., 173 HP engine
- Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability§
- 4-wheel ABS disc brakes
- Power locks, windows and heated mirrors

Sale Price From: **$13,995** Purchase Price

Save up to $1,800

You Pay: **$15,559**‡ Purchase Price AND **0%** Finance APR**

Includes:
Delivery & Destination $1,455
Fees $109

Rio EX shown

HWY: 5.8 L/100KM 49 MPG CITY: 7.1 L/100KM 40 MPG

greenercars.org

2010 KIA RIO

- 1.6L, 4-cyl., 16-valve CVVT engine
- Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability§
- AM/FM/CD/MP3 stereo with USB and AUX audio inputs
- 6-way adjustable driver's seat and tilt-adjustable steering column

Sale Price From: **$9,995** Purchase Price

Save up to $3,700

You Pay: **$11,559**‡ Purchase Price AND **0%** Finance APR**

Includes:
Delivery & Destination $1,455
Fees $109

Sedona EX shown

HWY: 8.5 L/100KM 33 MPG CITY: 12.6 L/100KM 22 MPG

Crash Test Rating
NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts^

2010 KIA SEDONA

- 3.8L V6 CVVT engine with 5-speed Steptronic automatic transmission
- Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability§
- Available rear-seated DVD entertainment system
- Anti-whiplash active front headrest

Sale Price From: **$25,545** Purchase Price

Save up to $3,550

You Pay: **$27,404**‡ Purchase Price AND **0%** Finance APR**

Includes:
Delivery & Destination $1,650
Fees $209

Rondo EX shown

HWY: 7.5 L/100KM 38 MPG CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG

Crash Test Rating
NHTSA - Frontal impacts^

2010 KIA RONDO

- 2.4L, 4-cyl., 16-valve CVVT, or available 2.7L, 24-valve CVVT V6 engine
- Standard 6 airbags, ABS and automatic transmission
- Standard 6-way adjustable driver's seat
- Available 7 seater

Sale Price From: **$17,995** Purchase Price

Save up to $2,000

You Pay: **$19,754**‡ Purchase Price AND **0%** Finance APR••

Includes:
Delivery & Destination $1,650
Fees $109

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes Delivery and Destination fees and all mandatory government levies.
Prices do not include dealer administration fees (up to $699), licensing, PPSA, or applicable taxes.

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^5-YEAR/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY
^5-YEAR/100,000 KM EXTRA CARE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
^NO DEDUCTIBLE CHARGE

$500 Grad Rebate

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"90 Day Don't Pay" (90 day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on all new 2010 Kia models. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract. ***0% financing available on 2010 Forte (FO540A)/2010 Sedona (SD751A)/2010 Rondo (RN751A)/2010 Rio (RO542A) for 36 months on approved credit (OAC). Cash back amount varies by model and trim. ****Monthly lease payment for 2011 Sorento (SR540B) is $299 for 48 months at 4.9% lease APR with a $4,010 down payment. Total lease obligation is $18,381 with the option to purchase at end of term for $10,658. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650 excluded. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available) and $0.10/km for excess. †Cash purchase price for 2011 Sorento (SR540B) is $23,495 and includes a cash credit of $500 based on an MSRP of $25,995. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. ††For information purpose only: The effective lease rate is 5.75% and is calculated based on the net benefit of the cash credit over the existing lease credits. Please see dealers for full details. ‡Purchase price for 2010 Forte (FO540A)/2010 Rondo (RN751A)/2010 Rio (RO542A)/2010 Sedona (SD751A) is $15,559/$19,754/$11,559/$27,404 and includes a cash rebate of $1,800/$2,000/$3,700/$3,550 based on an MSRP of $15,795/$19,995/$13,695/$27,045. Delivery and destination fee ($1,455/$1,650/$1,455/$1,650), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee, Excise Tax and Air Tax (where applicable) included. All offers exclude license, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2010 Rio (RO542A) is 5.8L (49MPG) / 7.1L (40 MPG); 2010 Rondo (RN751A) is 7.5L (38 MPG) / 10.6L (27 MPG); 2010 Forte (FO540A) is 5.8L (49 MPG) / 8.3L (34 MPG); 2011 Sorento 2.4L MT (SR540B) is 7.4L (38 MPG) / 10.6L (27 MPG); 2010 Sedona (SD751A) is 8.5L (33 MPG) / 12.6L (22 MPG). The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. +The 2010 Kia Forte was awarded Car of the Year by NADAguides.com. To learn more please visit www.NADAguides.com. 2010 Kia Sedona awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. Green Score for the 2010 Kia Rio/2010 Kia Rondo based on specification within its segment. Refer to www.GreenerCars.org for full details. NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends April 30, 2010. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.